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U.S. Experts View 'Pawn Shop' Radar Vans

LD221311 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1213 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec [TASS]—TASS diplomatic correspondent reports:

The Soviet Union has dismantled its radar stations at the Sary-Shagan testing ground and has physically destroyed their equipment. Two vans from the "Pawn Shop" radar station have been handed over to the national economy and transferred to the Gomel and Moscow areas. A third station has been destroyed, together with the van. In the Soviet Union, therefore, the stations which the U.S. side erroneously took to be mobile ABM radar stations do not exist. The U.S. representatives who have just visited our country were able to convince themselves of this, a USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman told the TASS diplomatic correspondent today.

Between 20-22 December, U.S. experts visited the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet side, and had the opportunity to examine the radar vans, which are described in U.S. terminology as "Pawn Shop," and also separate fragments of the "Flat Twin" radar station in areas of the towns of Gomel and Moscow.

The empty "Pawn Shop" radar vans and separate fragments from the "Flat Twin" radar station were shown to U.S. representatives on-site, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out. Exhaustive explanations, including those of a technical nature, were given on the national economic purposes for which they are being used. The U.S. representatives were able to convince themselves of the authenticity of the information previously supplied by the Soviet side, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed. It follows quite evidently from this that the USSR is strictly observing all provisions of the ABM Treaty.

INF Treaty Ratification in U.S.

OW181047 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1220 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Georgiy Zubkov commentary from the "World Today Program"]

[Text] We all continue to discuss and exchange views about the USSR-U.S. summit meeting and the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. I think an exchange of views of this kind takes place in every Soviet or American family, and the topic of the Soviet-American meeting does not live only in the pages of a newspaper, whether here or abroad. This is a regular and quite a natural thing. The elimination of at least a small portion of the nuclear arms concerns the fate of all mankind, the whole our planet, and each man taken individually. Statesmen, diplomats, military, and experts in different spheres in Moscow, Washington, West European capitals, and everywhere in the world are subjecting the results of the USSR-U.S.

summit meeting to thorough analysis. Important meetings and tours are taking place. One is the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Western Europe. Today, he is holding talks in London, and I shall discuss that a little later on.

The Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is signed. Now everyone is interested in the question—how will the situation develop? Primarily, the matter lies in the treaty ratification. Speaking on Soviet television, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said: The treaty has demonstrated to everyone that the turn from the arms race to disarmament is possible. Now, the aim is to preserve the atmosphere which allowed us to conclude the treaty, and to continue acting constructively and consistently. To do this, we should provide the treaty with the power of law—ratify it. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee expressed confidence that the Supreme Soviet of our country would support the agreement, because this is the will of our people. Comrade Gorbachev said that the fact of practical participation of many Supreme Soviet deputies and its commissions, primarily the foreign affairs commissions, in the consideration of questions connected with the preparation of the treaty is also important. Yes, the treaty is important, because it will also be scrutinized by three U.S. Senate commissions—they call them committees—before it is submitted for general voting by the the U.S. Senate. To be ratified by the U.S. Senate, the treaty requires a two-thirds majority vote, but a simple majority is sufficient to introduce amendments. It practically signifies that the conservatively-minded senators can easily resort to the tactic of delays. When old concepts are being broken, resistance of those who connect with them their political and material well-being unavoidably increases.

Comrade Gorbachev noted in his TV address that only 3 days had passed since his return home, but certain circles of the United States and other countries of the West are already mobilizing their forces to prevent the change for the better. Voices that appeal to the U.S. leadership not to go too far, but rather to stop the disarmament process, are becoming increasingly stronger. They are demanding urgent measures for compensation of the elimination of the intermediate and short-range missiles, by bringing to Europe and into the proximity of Europe new nuclear forces and by modernizing the nuclear and other arms will remain there.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan held a meeting in the White House with leaders of the Republican Party of the U.S. Congress. Prospects of quick consideration and ratification of the treaty on elimination of intermediate and short-range missiles were the main topics of the meeting. The same report from Washington indicates that representatives of ultraright forces have already begun an active and full-scale campaign for compromising the first agreement in history that envisages concrete steps in the sphere of disarmament.

Prospects for Treaty Ratification Examined
LD212221 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1745 GMT 21 Dec 87

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Vitaliy Sobolev]

[Text] Today the 42d session of the UN General Assembly is ending, it is reported from New York. It has been working in the atmosphere of beneficial changes in East-West relations. The idea of new political thinking has found understanding and support among the majority of participants. The session welcomed the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. The treaty has been unanimously appraised in UN circles as historic.

If one is to believe the AP agency, the treaty will be submitted to the U.S. Senate for examination and ratification in January. According to polls, for example one carried out by THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, although three-quarters of Americans think that the treaty should be ratified by the Senate, its opponents are not giving in. They are also the opponents of Soviet-U.S. rapprochement in general. As THE NEW YORK TIMES observed, the conservatives have been dismayed not so much by the treaty as by President Reagan's moderate statements about the communists.

It will be no easy matter for senators to oppose the treaty, in view of the universal support for it and the election coming in 1988. This has emerged clearly in the stance of Dole, leader of the Republican minority in Senate. He had previously been hinting that he might come out against the treaty. Then, as THE WASHINGTON POST writes, Dole's support in the state of Iowa, where the presidential race will be launched at the beginning of next year, began to fall unexpectedly; and Dole has presidential aspirations. He reacted immediately, expressing support for the treaty, so as to save himself, as U.S. observers put it. Nevertheless, the spirit of doubts about the benefit of the treaty for the United States is being maintained among the legislators by various means.

Sometimes it is explained that the Pentagon has not yet drafted a plan for what to do if the Soviet Union does not fulfill the treaty, and they start asking the President what will happen in that case. He answers that the production of Pershing missiles will be resumed. Sometimes speculation arises concerning the photographs given to the U.S. side of the Soviet missiles which are to be eliminated. Representatives of the United States's secret services give assurances that these photographs are to their satisfaction. But some congressmen find them not clear enough, and declare that the Soviet Union is beginning to deceive its treaty counterparts in this way. Of course, when doubts of such a kind are successfully dispelled by competent people, this works in favor of the disarmament process.

But in general, the whipping up of suspicions concerning the sincerity of the Soviet side is being conducted with a long-term aim of preventing this process from developing further. The same aim is evidently served by talk about the treaty weakening the power of NATO, and of its European participants in particular. THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent in Paris headed his article thus: Europe considers how to arm itself. Of course, this is not at all in accordance with the spirit of the times, but the correspondent is right to some extent. Let it be said that Paris is very energetically seeking ways to expand military cooperation with both Bonn and London. For example, they are offering the British joint patrols by nuclear submarines in various areas and distribution of targets for strategic offensive weapons. They are also talking about joint production of an Anglo-French nuclear missile. In short, the disarmament process has hardly got moving, but they are trying to put the brakes on it from various sides. They do so rather on the quiet; all the same, the impulse of the times is for disarmament.

Defensive Aspects of SDI Questioned

PM221607 Moscow APN MILITARY BULLETIN
in English No 23, Nov 87 pp 2-6

[Article by "an analyst": "SDI: Changes and Adjustments"]

[Text] As a foreword, let us have a brief rerun of history. In the 50s the US planned to build a reliable air defence for guaranteed prevention of Soviet heavy bombers from getting into North American air space.

Later, the USSR and the US planned to develop and deploy a strong anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system. The signing of the ABM Treaty became an excellent precedent for converting destabilizing designs into a real stabilization. The treaty also showed that political means could be more effective for practical defence than billion-dollar allocations.

The development of the space defence project was in effect a step back. The old idea of defending against an enemy attack or retaliation with an impenetrable shield was revived in the new conditions with a heavy stake on the potentialities of future advances in science and technology. Specialists analyzing the proposed ways of its implementation came to the conclusion that what was called a space defence was, above all, a major threat. Take, for example, just one, nuclear aspect of that project: nuclear laser pumping, or nuclear power generator itself [sentence as published]

The MILITARY BULLETIN has already called the readers' attention to another aspect of this problem - namely to the impossibility of calling interception and destruction in the atmosphere defence against nuclear missiles at all, because it will have the same consequences as nuclear war.

This is because nuclear warheads knocked out by whatever means will release their lethal "stuffing". Thereby, the main part of plutonium-239 will burn out in the atmosphere, forming microscopic aerosol particles of plutonium dioxide measuring about a micrometre in size, while the remaining part will fall out in the shape of relatively large pieces which will be oxidized, too.

One can operate with different figures dealing with the number of warheads and the amount of pulverized plutonium. one can also deny that the resultant danger will threaten the whole of mankind. It is indisputable, however, that gamma and beta radiation are high-risk radiological effects of the nuclear explosion and of the subsequent radioactive contamination.

If someone decides to scatter pulverized plutonium-239, that will mean that he is using a radiological weapon. But then, actual use of the so-called space defence within the SDI framework will eventually lead to the release of radioactive substances and their scattering in the atmosphere.

There are other reasons, too, which, on the one hand, provoke strong doubts as to the possibility of SDI becoming a defensive system and, on the other, inspire confidence that it can lead to a global catastrophe.

Analytical data and experts' estimates explicitly show that it is impossible to develop error-free software for controlling a space defence system of the SDI type.

This primarily refers to the elaboration of a highly detailed operating logic for the system, which would encompass countless variants of both combat actions calling for a response and of non-combat actions which do not require a reaction. The speculations about super-reliable and super-fast systems which can supposedly be 100 per cent fail-safe in a distant future sound highly doubtful with the current state of technology.

There are still no analogues of systems operating without a single error even in the ideal lab conditions. Hence, one must take into consideration not only potential freaks of nature but countermeasures of the hypothetical enemy (the so-called "dazzling", destruction of individual components of the complex, etc.).

As a case study, Soviet Academician Raushenbah examines a space combat system consisting of 40 satellites. If the enemy knocks out a quarter of that force, the programme will have to envisage which particular satellites have been destroyed. That will make up more than 350 million variants. If just one more satellite is knocked out, the number of variants will exceed a billion. Assuming that the programme is drawn up and fed into the system well in advance, one will have to admit that it will have no knowledge of the variants associated with the

enemy's new inventions or developments, which means that the whole job will be of no avail. The system will either commit catastrophic errors or prove totally useless.

The sizable slashes by Congress in the SDI allocations, no matter how they might be explained by officials and by the SDI lobby, are also a sign that the arguments of the "sceptics" have been heeded. Indeed, Pentagon officials are saying that there are plans for major cuts in the allocations and for a suspension of key experiments and projects for a couple of years. That will apparently delay the deployment of the first stage of the space defence system, which was announced by the former Pentagon chief in the middle of this year. In the opinion of the assistant director of the SDI administration, Gordon Smith, the question can now be attended to only after 1992.

Although there are still no comments on the details of the readjusted SDI, some of its contours are already discernible. There are reports of political opposition to the SP-100 nuclear generator which is meant to power space-based weapons. "Technical difficulties" may result in the cancellation of the space surveillance and tracking system which is meant for identifying decoys in space. There may also be a postponement of the development and testing of the first-generation software for communications between sensors, weapons and battle-command computers.

There is still no clear knowledge, however, about the future of the project to build a test range in Colorado and whether the components of the system, which are being tested in different places, will be brought together. Nor is it clear whether the US will model a land-based SDI control system, and develop integrated software and appropriate supercomputers.

In any case, adjustments in the SDI project are a fact. That process can hardly be linked with the change of guard at the Pentagon. One should rather listen to the ideas voiced by John Galbraith. SDI, he said, is being pushed through by those who believe that if such a system is theoretically possible, it must necessarily be developed, and if that or another amount of spending is probable, it is thereby necessary. Let me try to continue this line of reasoning: if there is a deadlock ahead, development work should be suspended and the allocations reduced.

General Markelov Reaffirms Verification Pledge
PM211108 Madrid YA in Spanish
9 Dec 87 p 4

[Interview with General Yuriy Markelov, identified as deputy chief of the Soviet Staff Disarmament and Security Affairs Department, by Fernando Rueda; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Madrid—[passage omitted] [Rueda] Do you believe there is any real hope that the INF verification procedures will be observed?

[Markelov] The Soviet Union wants monitoring, verification, no less than any other country. It also wants to be sure that the other side is not going to do the things forbidden by the agreement. If anyone is speculating about the Soviet Union's position on questions of monitoring, then he does so with ill intentions.

[Rueda] Does the signing of this agreement mean that Gorbachev will secure some political breathing space in the Soviet Union?

[Markelov] What sort of breathing space do you mean? We do not couch the issue in these terms.

[Rueda] I am referring to the fact that there is said to be some political opposition to Gorbachev and that, just as President Reagan will score a major success for his term of office, Gorbachev will secure some breathing space in which to temper domestic criticisms.

[Markelov] We do not have any political opposition in the Soviet Union. Of course there are people who cannot change the way they think with regard to the restructuring policy. They do not constitute an opposition, however: They are the people who are still unable to relinquish their old habits and to change their way of thinking. The main reason why we have no political opposition lies in the fact in the Soviet Union politics is conducted for the benefit of the entire people. In our country there are no classes or social groups with a vested interest in the arms race. The picture in the United States is different, since there the political struggle is waged within the context of the presidential election campaign.

Conventional Weapons [subhead]

[Rueda] Many European countries have complained that the INF accord leaves the USSR a clear superiority in weapons [as published] over the European NATO countries.

[Markelov] This is not the true picture; these are the arguments used by those who do not want disarmament. We in the Soviet Union believe that there is an approximate balance of conventional weapons in Europe. With regard to Warsaw Pact and NATO troops, there are approximately 3 million people deployed on either side. Of course there is not a precise arithmetical equality, but this cannot exist in reality. The veteran French admiral, Sanguinetti, confirmed in an article 2 months ago that no such Warsaw Pact superiority exists.

[Rueda] Nevertheless in Europe figures are cited which are not the same as those you put forward. Do you believe that West Europe is distorting the balance of forces?

[Markelov] If you read the article by that admiral—who is not a Communist or in any way pro-Soviet—you will see that it is possible, using a pencil and paper, to make

such calculations, which bear no relation to reality. For instance, when they want to demonstrate the Warsaw Pact's superiority they take no account of the French and Spanish divisions, of which there are 20, totaling 1 million troops.

[Rueda] The deterrence strategy is measured more in qualitative than in quantitative terms. In other words, the fact that such missiles exist enables countries to decide [sentence as published].

[Markelov] This is not so, and those who say that West Europe will be left defenseless are mistaken. Even Mr Reagan said, to soothe his allies in West Europe, that there are sufficient nuclear weapons for them not to feel defenseless.

F-16-Type Delivery Vehicles [subhead]

[Rueda] Do you believe that the U.S. presence in Spain entails a risk and means that in the event of war there would be a danger of Spain's suffering a nuclear attack?

[Markelov] There are no nuclear weapons in Spain. There are only delivery vehicles such as the F-16 aircraft. As far as I know, Spain is vigorously in favor of those aircraft's withdrawal. We are aware of the desire to remove those nuclear weapons delivery vehicles. With regard to Spanish territory, we stand by the declaration on not inflicting nuclear strikes on countries that do not possess such weapons. If nuclear weapons were to be deployed on Spanish territory it would entail the threat to Spain of suffering a retaliatory strike. However, I am not acquainted with the plans cited by a member of the British military and published by YA some weeks ago, since there are no nuclear weapons in Spain and no such plans can exist. That statement was a provocation. The Soviet Union has no ill intentions toward Spain. We very well remember the years 1936-39, when Soviet comrades shed their blood in Spain. The USSR is no threat to the Spanish people and will not be so in the future. You can tell your readers that the USSR will resolutely honor its declarations. The threat to Spain stems not from the Soviet Union but from the eventuality of the United States' deploying nuclear weapons in Spain.

"Do Not Fly Over Moscow" [subhead]

[Rueda] How was it possible for the case involving the German pilot, Rust, to occur?

[Markelov] It was possible to some extent because of the neglect of duties on the part of certain military personnel. He was monitored by our equipment as he crossed our border. We had several opportunities to bring him down right away, but decided against it. This, particularly because we saw that it was a light civilian, nonmilitary aircraft, and of course we did not want any casualties. When he was in the vicinity of Moscow it was impossible to take any measures to protect him from danger and to ensure that there would be no casualties. I

would like to say that those who believe that the case demonstrates the weakness of Soviet air defense are profoundly mistaken and I would not recommend anyone to try to repeat that flight.

Karpov Addresses French Defense Commission
PM221300 Paris LE MONDE in French
19 Dec 87 p 5

["P.S." report: "Soviet Official Addresses Defense Commission"]

[Text] For the first time in the history of the French Parliament, a top Soviet official has addressed a parliamentary commission. Viktor Karpov, director of a Soviet Foreign Ministry department, explained the Soviet view on the Washington summit to the National Assembly National Defense Commission chaired by Francois Fillon (RPR, Sarthe) on 15 December. The Soviet envoy reaffirmed to the French commission members that the current process must relate to strategic and conventional weapons too. With regard to the reciprocal inspection system aimed at verifying the elimination of the INF in the two countries, Mr Karpov said that the 700 visits[as published] which will be made in the first 2 years will enable a body of inspectors to acquire experience which will be valuable for subsequent stages (strategic arms).

Mr Karpov said that the Washington agreement was welcomed by the Soviets, but that some people were wondering whether too many concessions had been made. Indeed, these weapons are the result of the Soviet people's labor, he explained, adding that the population feared that verification might lead to an increase in espionage.

In reply to Mr Karpov, who spoke of the "European house" in which everybody must be able to live in peace, Mr Fillon said that the problem of security in Europe as a whole could not be limited merely to considerations of physical geography, because there was also a human geography in which two ideologies and two families were opposed. The United States is part of our family, he added.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond was also given a hearing by the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Commission, chaired by Valery Giscard d'Estaing on Thursday 17 December. With regard to the INF agreement, Mr Raimond said that it was "a good agreement, because it fulfills the aims of those who negotiated it," because it is comprehensive, affecting both Europe and Asia, because it excludes third forces, and because it includes new and important verification measures. However, the minister said that it could have a negative impact, if this agreement led to nuclear disarmament in Europe—an objective pursued by the Soviets. This risk, linked to a third "zero option" (missiles with a range of

less than 500 km), cannot be underestimated, Mr Raimond admitted, describing this agreement as "very positive" if it leads to a reduction in strategic arsenals.

Expert Says Binary Chemical Weapons Destabilizing
LD222355 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland
2000 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A Soviet military expert said today that the newly started production of binary chemical munitions in the United States was a destabilizing step affecting first of all the situation in Europe. Major General Geliy Batenin was speaking in an interview with the diplomatic correspondent of the news agency TASS.

From the military point of view, he said, binary munitions are hard to monitor, even if there is a convention prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. He also said that there were no outward features by which a binary shell could be distinguished from an artillery shell or a binary bomb that could be told from a conventional one. Besides, General Batenin stated that shells could be filled with binaries secretly at American military bases in Europe.

The general argued that the reactivation of the chemical munitions complex in Pine Bluff, Arkansas could only be seen as preparation for chemical warfare. Why should such a factory be needed in peacetime, the general asked. Why build up chemical arsenals now that progress has begun towards nuclear disarmament? Batenin noted that the United States planned to produce 700,000 binary shells a year. Evidently, he suggested, we are dealing with an attempt to make up for the reduction of American nuclear missiles in Europe with binary weapons.

The Soviet expert pointed out that at Geneva talks on a convention to ban chemical warfare agents, the United States had sidestepped a Soviet proposal for quickly concluding the drafting work. The American side was in effect openly holding back the negotiations. And he pointed out that the convention is 95 percent ready as far as verification provisions are concerned. The Soviet side has been working towards its conclusion as early as in 1987.

He said that in the United States they were attempting to justify their attitude by saying the Soviet Union had discontinued the manufacture of chemical weapons much later than the United States had. Unlike the United States, however, the USSR has never produced such weapons intensively. When the United States discontinued its chemical weapon production in 1969, its chemical arsenal was three to three-and-a-half times bigger than the Soviet One, the general observed. And he added that the United States halted those operations in those years not at all because of a noble desire to eliminate chemical weapons completely, but because of

public opinion and because it had burned its fingers during its adventure in Vietnam, where it had waged a real chemical war, using herbicides, defoliants and other toxins.

CSCE Committee's Silin Discusses Summit
AU211554 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German
20 Dec 87 p 3

[Werner Pirker report from Moscow: "Soviet CSCE Expert on Summit: 'Much Now Depends on Europe'"]

[Text] Was the further course of the Washington summit not rather disappointing after such a promising start? In a talk with VOLKSSTIMME, Y. Silin, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, denied this. Disappointment was possible only if one had had illusions.

It would have undoubtedly been illusory to expect a second agreement—more or less ready for signing—from this meeting, Silin stated. Those, however, who—in line with the summit agenda—expected a serious exchange of opinions on further disarmament steps have not been disappointed after thoroughly studying the joint declaration. There one finds the rather clear declaration of intent by both states to accelerate the negotiations on a 50% reduction of strategic weapons while observing the ABM Treaty, while the period for a potential withdrawal from the treaty remains the decisive contentious issue. A ban on nuclear tests was also discussed.

Exemplary for Future Disarmament Steps [subhead]

Here, too, the U.S. side showed more readiness for negotiations than before, and it no longer seems to consider the vexatious question of verification as an "insurmountable obstacle." Chemical armament and the working out of an international convention on the ban of these weapons of mass destruction were also discussed.

Geneva—Reykjavik—Washington, the tendency is clearly a positive one, the political climate has experienced a tangible improvement, and there is a real chance to turn from confrontation to cooperation, Silin said. After all, he added, it was decided in Washington to throw top modern nuclear weapons on the trash heap, not some obsolete missiles. Verification measures, which were coordinated in every detail, have also been found—verification measures that could be exemplary for future disarmament steps.

In the view of the Moscow CSCE expert, the further development of matters after the historic signature depends to a large extent on the West Europeans, who have to become more conscious of their own responsibility. All the more so, since it has to be feared that the forthcoming election campaign in the United States will

cause the problems of disarmament to retreat to the background, thus causing a "dead season." Particularly if Reagan imagines that his signature was enough for him to go down in history.

Of course, the small but so important step toward more security must not deceive one into an exaggerated feeling of security, into the illusion that the militant spirit of the cold warriors has abated. On the contrary, they are intensifying their efforts and are fanning all the old prejudices against the "Evil Empire."

Human Rights and the Safeguarding of Peace [subhead]

Perhaps, Silin said, in the past the Soviet side has not acted sufficiently actively with regard to the human rights question. This has made it easier for the neoglobalist forces to disguise their policy of interference and blackmail and their policy of neglecting the right to self-determination in the eyes of the public as "militant dedication" to enforcing human rights (as they see them).

Therefore, it cannot be the task of the newly established commission for humanitarian problems and human rights attached to the Soviet CSCE Committee to deal only with the accusations of the other side, and it would be equally inappropriate to counter these accusations in the same style. It is much more important to develop an active socialist human rights concept.

This is a logical result of raising the role of the personality as the most important task of restructuring, of a development that makes it increasingly possible for USSR citizens to participate in economic management and in solving political questions; and last but not least it is important to give more weight to the principles of social justice.

As the commission's statement on Human Rights Day (12 December) says, it is not planned to develop competition between the two sides on who is able to place more guilt on whom with regard to the violation of human rights, but a competition of practical work to overcome all those aspects in social and international life that violate man's basic rights. This principle is naturally opposed by the effort to enforce a neocolonialist economic order and to rob entire peoples (and thus each individual) of their right to self-determination.

Furthermore, the document says that only harmony between the respect for the rights and interests of each individual person and the satisfaction of the needs of the entire society can be the condition for the reasonable, civilized existence of mankind. Thus, there is indeed a close connection between human rights and the safeguarding of peace. But not in the way the various circles understand it when they make progress in the disarmament question dependent on the acceptance of bourgeois values (which are not particularly humane when taken as a whole).

These forces are the ones that try to avoid a serious discussion of this topic and to prevent with all means an international human rights conference from taking place in Moscow (in the "lion's den" from their point of view), as proposed by the USSR delegation at the Vienna CSCE meeting.

The Soviet CSCE Committee, Silin said, has consequently intensified its activities and has started a broad, political dialogue with practically all political parties and movements in Western Europe (with the exception of the ultrarightists). They also were not above establishing contacts with rather obscure human rights committees from the darkest corner. Even though the Princes of Schwarzenberg (one descendant of this family is the head of such an association in Vienna) consider the elimination of socialism the most important human right, it is true that dialogue is better than confrontation.

Pact Working Group on Arms Curb Mandate Meets
PM221419 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
19 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Session Held"]

[Text] Budapest, 18 Dec—A regular session of the working group of Warsaw Pact experts on questions of the reduction of armed forces and conventional arms in Europe was held in Budapest 17-18 December. The experts examined the situation at the consultations in Vienna in connection with the elaboration of a mandate for the future talks on armed forces and conventional arms, including dual purpose arms, in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals in the light of the signing of the Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. They discussed the possibility of speeding up the elaboration of the mandate with a view to opening as soon as possible the talks proper aimed at the elaboration of specific measures.

CSCE Meeting Delegate Interviewed
LD191128 Prague Television Service in Slovak
2100 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] [Announcer] The CSCE follow-up meeting adjourned today. The results achieved is the subject of the following interview with the head of the Soviet delegation [not identified].

[Begin recording; questions and answers in Russian, fading into Slovak translation] [Unidentified questioner] Comrade ambassador, what influence did the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit have on the course of the Vienna follow-up meeting?

[Ambassador] The results achieved in Washington directly influenced the meeting in Vienna in two aspects. Firstly, what is involved is the general political influence. We are witnessing a visibly changing situation in Europe; the atmosphere is improving

since the treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons concerns not only the United States and the USSR but also seven other countries. Secondly, what is involved is the practical impact of the summit meeting, because Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan discussed also the follow-up meeting in Vienna. They spoke in favor of speeding up the talks at the follow-up meeting, and devoted a great deal of their time to the reduction of the number of armed forces and conventional arms in our continent.

It is precisely this problem that delegates of 20 states of the North Atlantic and Warsaw Pacts are examining at consultative meetings within the framework of the follow-up meeting here in Vienna. Only a few days after the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev and President Reagan we made significant progress within the framework of this group of these 20 countries: We agreed in a section of a draft treaty on aims and methods of negotiations about the reduction of conventional armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals. In addition, the highest Soviet Party representatives and President Reagan also advocated the continuation of the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures, security, and disarmament in Europe. We also discuss this problem here. I can announce that the continuation in the Stockholm conference, as we say, Stockholm-2, as well as the talks on conventional disarmament from the Atlantic up to the Urals, will begin next year, in 1988. All this is the direct consequence of the summit meeting in Washington.

[Question] What, in your view, is the biggest problem and obstacle impeding the adoption of the final document at the follow-up meeting?

[Ambassador] A big problem for some Western delegations of the NATO states is to find a degree of realism. The fact is, a sense of realism is lacking among some delegates. This does not involve only problems in the humanitarian field but, for instance, also in the area of military security. They are refusing, for instance, to include means of military designation in the talks on conventional disarmament. I would add that delegates of these countries are lacking in dynamism. They are not perceptive to the demands of the time. They are not keeping pace with the dynamism of world developments. The endeavor of the socialist states at the CSCE follow-up meeting carries imprints of attempts to reach compromise. At the same time we do not think that our position is an untouchable, historic monument. What is needed, of course, is that the positions of our counterparts change and come closer to our standpoint. I am convinced that we will find such compromises; we cannot allow ourselves not to find them. Time instructs us to do so.

[Question] From what is already clear today, what will appear in the final document?

[Ambassador] Matters have been agreed practically in all areas. They have not yet however been approved. I believe that during the next stage of the follow-up meeting—from 22 January 1988—the efforts of all

delegates of 35 countries must be aimed at reaching a common agreement on the final version of the final document. [end recording]

Petrovskiy, Gerasimov Hold News Conference

*LD222334 Moscow Television Service in Russian
2030 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Special program: News conference with Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy and Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov at USSR Foreign Ministry on 22 December—live or recorded]

[Text] [Petrovskiy] The main part of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly, the general annual meeting of member states of this international association, ended yesterday. The session was marked by the establishment of new political thinking. Its decisions are characterized by a striving to support and secure the process of renewal of international life which found expression during the preparation for and in the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting. The treaty on eliminating medium- and short-range missiles was welcomed by all participants as an important frontier in world development, as a practical beginning in the construction of a world without nuclear weapons and violence.

Overcoming confrontation, arranging cooperation in all areas of international relations—these were the essence of the concept of forming a universal system of peace and security which was put forward for the consideration of the United Nations by a group of socialist countries and which was contained in a joint memorandum of these countries. The proposals by the Soviet Union of practical ways and means of solving this task were set out in the article addressed to the session by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev entitled "Reality and Guarantees of a Secure World". In fact, as is rightly noted at the United Nations, there were several readings of this article. We note with satisfaction that there was not a single committee which did not discuss in a specific and interested manner the ideas outlined in this article. Many of these ideas were reflected in the decisions of the session.

One of the major decisions of the session was the fundamental document on the question of a universal system of international peace and security. This document, formulating the concept of such a system and calling on states to be guided in their actions by new thinking, aims to deepen and develop international dialogue, and the activation of efforts by states to find practical ways for joint movement to a secure world. Firm support for it was given by leading nonaligned countries, including India, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, Argentina, and also Mexico and Brazil, and such neutral states as Finland and Austria. We note the interest shown in this initiative and the readiness to consider its aspects in a businesslike manner on the part of a number of Western countries, including the FRG, Australia, Denmark, Canada, Greece, Ireland, Sweden, and other states.

Today, when the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting has opened up the prospect for a move in international cooperation to a qualitatively new stage, a stage of

cooperation in the name of building a more secure nuclear-free world, it is necessary that the decisions of the session which represent a powerful positive political charge should not remain on archive shelves but should be translated into the practical policy of all United Nations member states; they should serve as a guiding line in the work of international conferences and organizations and in particular in the work of the third special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament in June next year.

As for the Soviet Union, it is fully determined to promote with really tangible deeds the common efforts to form equal security for all in all directions of world politics. Thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Vladimir Fedorovich. We shall now move on to the questions.

[Unidentified reporter] With regard to the idea of universal international security, how is this idea being implemented in practice and what are its prospects for the near future?

[Petrovskiy] With regard to this idea, I would say that at the current session a conceptual breakthrough has been made. But the creation and formation of the concept of a universal security system is only one side of the matter. The most important thing is that now in practical policy and practical affairs not only is the foundation being laid—I would say more is being done—the first stories of this edifice of universal security are being built. A concrete example of this is the Soviet-U.S. accord that was just signed in Washington on the elimination of two classes of missiles. The agreements that will follow this—and we hope these agreements will involve further progress in curbing the nuclear arms race and toward the elimination of chemical weapons—will also be important constructions in this universal security edifice.

[Second unidentified reporter] Recently hopes for resolving the Iran-Iraq conflict have been linked with the UN Security Council. How do things stand?

[Petrovskiy] The USSR has stated in the United Nations that it is ready to begin discussing in the Security Council a new resolution that would impose an embargo on the supply of weapons to the side in the conflict that refuses to fulfil Resolution 598. What considerations guided us in coming to this new decision? We proceeded from the idea that the Security Council's starting work on such a resolution should serve as a fresh impulse for the continuation of the UN secretary general's mission to achieve a settlement of the conflict, and at the same time should serve as a sort of signal to the warring sides that the Security Council is fully resolved to implement Resolution 598.

Our proposal to create naval forces in the Persian Gulf is also the subject of the present consultations taking place in New York. We propose to discuss this proposal side by side with the work on the draft resolution on the embargo.

[Third unidentified reporter in English with superimposed Russian translation] CBS. Mr Petrovskiy, is the creation of joint UN naval forces a precondition for the USSR to join in the embargo?

[Petrovskiy] First of all, it is a question of drafting a second resolution on an arms supply embargo. This idea has been elaborated at the United Nations. But I would like to stress that in raising the question of creating UN naval forces in the Persian Gulf, we are not at all making this question some sort of preliminary condition for deciding the other. It is a matter of parallel actions in this direction. For, you see what sometimes happens. People often forget the contents of Resolution 598 and it is interpreted only as a resolution addressed to the warring sides. But this resolution contains a special paragraph, paragraph 5, which calls on third countries to refrain from actions that could lead to an escalation of the conflict. We consider that the stepping up of naval forces—and we think this is quite a widely held opinion in the United Nations—that the stepping up of naval forces by no means promotes a normalization of the situation in the region but, on the contrary, creates the possibility of escalating the conflict, the possibility of creating an explosion going far beyond that region's borders.

It is precisely for that reason, with concern that Resolution 598 be fully implemented, that we are proposing now not only to discuss and review the question of a second resolution with regard to an arms supply embargo but also to discuss the question of the creation of UN naval forces. This is a very serious matter, a matter connected with naval presence, and it is necessary to resolve it precisely by the means recommended by the 42d [UN] session, by means of internationalizing efforts, by the means of actively involving the United Nations in the resolution of international conflicts.

[Gerasimov] Thank you for your attention. Goodbye.

[Petrovskiy] Well, Happy New Year and Christmas [preceding word in English].

Disarmament Efforts 'Held Up'

LD221628 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—The 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly, which has basically concluded its work, was marked by the assertion of the new mode of political thinking and reflected the aspiration to support and forge the process to renovate international affairs. This was reflected in the course of preparations for and in the outcome of the Soviet-U.S.

summit meeting, said Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy foreign minister of the USSR. He spoke at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

The course of bringing the work of the United Nations in line with the reality of the modern interrelated world is the course with which the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that acted from single and concerted positions came to the session. Overcoming confrontation, forging cooperation in all areas of international affairs is the substance of the concept of forming a comprehensive system of peace and security proposed for the United Nations' consideration by the group of these countries and contained in their joint memorandum.

The document on the issue of a comprehensive system of peace and security, which is of fundamental nature, has been an all-important decision of the session. The United States, France, Britain and several of their allies opposed in a harsh manner this proposal and the resolution adopted on it despite its clear-cut, constructive and non-confrontational thrust.

The struggle between the new and old thinking was also reflected in discussing concrete direction in the efforts to contribute towards security, Petrovskiy stressed. It is hard to overestimate the significance of the principled decisions which were reached by consensus and orient at giving fresh impetus to the efforts to achieve disarmament, ensure the most stringent verification of compliance with respective agreements and their implementation. Efforts have succeeded for the first time ever to bring closer positions on problems of openness in the military field. At the same time, the attainment of mutually acceptable solutions to such overriding issues as halting nuclear tests, preventing the extension of the arms race to space, restricting naval armaments and naval activity of states, and disarmament for development has been held up as yet. Unpreparedness of the United States and in some cases of France and Britain told on this.

The striving has shaped up for a joint practical use of the United Nations to promote the settlement of conflict and crises situations. An illustrious example of this is the adoption of the resolution in support of the plan for a peace settlement in Central America worked out by the states in that region.

In the approach to the economic aspects of security a trend gained strength towards imparting stability and predictability to world economic relations with assurance of their fair character, getting agreement on ways to settle the foreign debt issue.

Important decisions, which are acceptable to all, were passed on combatting the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and on environmental protection. A serious and calm tone has started to be introduced in the debate on the humanitarian issues as well, although the

human rights problems continue to be overloaded with fruitless polemics. The U.N. General Assembly session has demonstrated a tendency towards concerted efforts in handling pressing issues and towards joint management of the interrelated world, Petrovskiy emphasized.

Gerasimov on Border Violations

*LD221557 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1429 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec (TASS)—A few days ago a report by the commander in chief of the Swedish armed forces on cases of violations of Swedish borders in the first half of 1987 was published in Stockholm. It cites, among other cases, evidence that in the given period the country's territorial waters were violated by foreign submarines, Gennadiy Gerasimov, USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said at a briefing held here today.

In this connection, he went on, a whole series of stories appeared in the Swedish press, even before the publication of the report. Their authors tried to assert that the Soviet Union is behind the violations that were noted. Gennadiy Gerasimov stressed that such conjectures lie on the conscience of the writers of these stories: The report contains no proof whatsoever that the craft responsible for the violations belonged to the USSR, and cannot contain any, since the Soviet Union does not, and has not engaged in any military or other illicit activity in Swedish waters, and has nothing to do with real or imaginary violations of Swedish territorial waters.

As has been stated many times before, the USSR respects Sweden's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are in favor of the development of friendly and stable relations with this country, and such groundless accusations, which can only cast a shadow of distrust with no foundation on relations between our two countries, cannot but arouse genuine regret on our part, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman stressed.

CPCZ's Jakes Assessed

*LD221547 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1440 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec (TASS)—In connection with certain commentaries in the Western press on the results of the December Plenum of the CPCZ Central Committee, Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate noted at a briefing today that in the Soviet Union Milos Jakes, the new general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, is known as an active champion of close cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and a sincere friend of the USSR.

The leadership of the USSR and the CSSR, Gennadiy Gerasimov continued, has repeatedly stressed the mutual aspiration of our countries toward further strengthening and developing the fraternal alliance and

comprehensive cooperation. The innovative approach of the new CPCZ leadership to resolving the tasks facing the country is combined with the continuity of Party policy as advanced by the 17th CPCZ Congress. This is indicated by the results of the December CPCZ Central Committee Plenum.

The USSR and CSSR cooperate closely in the international arena. The Soviet side coordinates its foreign policy steps with the CSSR and other socialist countries, and meets with their full support, stressed the USSR Foreign Ministry representative.

Radar Stations, ABM Treaty

*LD221528 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 22 December (TASS)—Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate, told a press conference today that U.S. representatives have been in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet side. During the period 20-22 December this year they were able to examine "Pawn Shop" mobile radar stations and individual parts of the "Flat Twin" radar station (according to American technology) in the areas of Gomel and Moscow.

When the U.S. side in the Soviet-U.S. permanent consultative commission raised the question of the radar station at the testing site near Sary-Shagan, the Soviet Union responded attentively to this concern, he continued. He provided the necessary explanations with regard to these radar stations and showed that their presence there does not contravene the provisions of the ABM Treaty. For the purpose of finally removing this issue, the Soviet Union took a constructive step: It dismantled the radar stations on the Sary-Shagan testing site and physically destroyed their equipment. Two "Pawn Shop" mobile radar stations were handed over to the national economy and moved to the regions of Gomel and Moscow. A third station was destroyed, together with the vehicle. In the Soviet Union, therefore, there are no stations assessed by the U.S. side as being mobile ABM radar stations.

As for the "Flat Twin" radar station, Gennadiy Gerasimov continued, there are only individual parts of a radar station of that type in the Gomel area—a rotating device and containers without apparatus. That too does not contravene the ABM Treaty in any degree.

The USSR Foreign Ministry representative noted that empty vans from the "Pawn Shop" radar station, and individual parts from the "Flat Twin" radar station were shown to the U.S. representatives on the site where they are located. Exhaustive explanations, including technical ones, were given about the national economic purposes for this being done. An opportunity was given to view

adjacent production installations and to photograph installations. The U.S. representatives were thus able to convince themselves as to the authenticity of information we gave previously.

Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, who took part in the press conference stressed that the Soviet side had invited U.S. representatives as an act of good will, aspiring to build confidence between the USSR and the United States in the area of observance of the ABM Treaty. The deputy minister said that we are counting on a similar positive attitude from Washington to those anxieties on U.S. observance of the ABM Treaty, about which the U.S. side has been repeatedly informed.

UN Security Council Condemns Israel

*LD230913 Moscow TASS in English 0732 GMT
23 Dec 87*

[Text] New York December 23 TASS—The U.N. Security Council passed on Tuesday by 14 votes a resolution strongly condemning Israel's policy in the occupied territories. The resolution stresses the pressing need for ensuring a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. delegation abstained in voting.

An urgent session of the U.N. Security Council was convened in mid-December in connection with the wave of bloody repressions levelled by the Israeli occupation authorities against the peaceful population of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza sector.

The U.N. Security Council proposed the U.N. secretary general to examine the situation in the occupied territories and present not later than on January 20 a report on the measures necessary for ensuring security and defending the Palestinian civilian population living under the Israeli occupation regime.

Addressing a press conference held after the Security Council Meeting, Clovis Maksoud, permanent observer of the League of Arab States to the U.N., said that the resolution is a serious warning to Israel from the whole of the international community. We are satisfied by the universal condemnation of the Israeli occupation authorities and their inhuman methods in the captured lands, he said. The course of discussions at the Security Council has demonstrated the unanimous solidarity of all states with the long-suffering Palestinian people. Israel should heed the will of an overwhelming majority of states, Clovis Maksoud said.

In the opinion of Zehdi Labib Terzi, permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the U.N. who also addressed a press conference, an ultimate settlement of the situation in the occupied Arab territories is possible only at an international peace conference on the Middle East, which should resolve the Palestinian issue—the core of the conflict in the region. Now it is

only Israel which continues persistently opposing the convocation of that conference to be held under the U.N. aegis with the participation of all sides concerned, including PLO—the recognized leader of the Palestinian people, he said.

Kashlev Addresses Closing CSCE Session

*PM221425 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 87
Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Seeking Progress"]

[Text] The latest stage of the meeting of representatives of the CSCE participant states has ended in Vienna.

At the final plenary session the delegation heads from more than 20 countries assessed the work done and the prospects for completing the meeting.

Ambassador Yu.B. Kashlev, USSR delegation head, pointed out that the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting devoted attention to questions that have a direct bearing on the Vienna meeting. M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan voiced their determination to ensure—jointly with the other 33 CSCE participants—the successful conclusion of this meeting on the basis of balanced progress on all aspects of the Helsinki Final Act.

The Vienna meeting and the all-European process as a whole, the Soviet representative said, must keep in step with the dynamics of modern world politics and justify its purpose as one of the major forums in the East-west dialogue.

The next stage of the Vienna meeting will begin 22 January 1988.

Representatives Brief Foreign Leaders on Summit

*LD221919 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Representatives of the Soviet leadership are expounding, during the continuing detailed exchanges of opinion with the leaders of foreign countries, assessments of the results of the talks between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on central issues of international politics. They stress the historic significance of the signing of a treaty to eliminate medium and shorter range missiles for progress over a broad range of problems relating to limiting armaments and disarmament and for an improvement in the overall international situation. The heads of states and governments, ministers of foreign affairs and other prominent statesmen and politicians of foreign countries express the hope that the constructive dialogue between the USSR and the United States will be continued and

stress the need to increase efforts toward further reducing armaments in the world, and strengthening the international climate of trust and cooperation.

Representatives of the Soviet leadership have been received by: Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola Worker's Party, president of the People's Republic of Angola; Rabah Bitat, president of the National People's Assembly of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary of Great Britain; Yeoryios Iakovou, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus; Thorwald Stoltenberg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; and Hans van den Broek, minister of foreign affairs of the Netherlands.

Meetings between Soviet representatives and the leaders of foreign countries continue.

INF Treaty Discussed

LD222029 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1330 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Soviet representatives continue to meet with leading figures of foreign countries. During these meetings there is an exchange of opinions on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit talks. [passage omitted]

In Brasilia, there was a meeting between Komplektov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Fletcha de Lima, acting foreign minister of Brazil. The Brazilian side noted, on behalf of the leadership, the identity of views on the results of the Soviet-U.S. talks and their positive effect on the situation in the world.

At the behest of the president of the Republic of Cyprus, Foreign Minister Iacovou, received Loginov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR. The Cypriot side considers the treaty to be the first practical step which, the peoples hope, will open up the path to complete disarmament and peace.

Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Stoltenberg noted, during a meeting with Uspenskiy, head of the second European section of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the signing of the treaty on medium- and short-range missiles is finding extensive support among all the political parties of the country and the public. Regarding the treaty as a factor in strengthening stability and security in Europe, the Norwegian side is against the increase of other arms systems in different geographical areas, including northern Europe. The Norwegian side noted with satisfaction the agreement of the positions of the USSR and Norway on other questions of the agenda on the Washington meeting.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Van Den Broek received Soviet Ambassador at large Lomeyko. During the exchange of opinions which took place, the great importance of the treaty on the elimination of medium- and short-range missiles on the path to nuclear disarmament and strengthening stability and security in Europe and in the world as a whole.

The meetings of Soviet representatives with leading figures of foreign countries are continuing.

Case for Mideast Conference, U.S. Attitude

PM221611 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 87
Morning Edition pp 4-5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion":
"Once More About Human Rights"]

[Text] In recent weeks the attention of the world press has again been focused on the tragic events in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Certain West European newspapers believe that those lands are living through the bloodiest days in their history. The Israeli occupiers' repression has been condemned by the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and socialist countries. Emergency sessions of the UN Security Council have been devoted to an urgent analysis of the situation taking shape, and demands have been advanced there for sanctions to be applied against Israel in order to end the excesses. However, as long as that country relies on U.S. support, it is hardly possible to count on any effective measures being taken.

The situation which has thus taken shape, in which there is nothing new for anyone, has reminded me of the recent Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington and the press conference which M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, gave after it. The fact that the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States succeeded during those days in signing the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles, opening up the path to nuclear disarmament, received worldwide recognition and approval.

But the following questions were also put at the press conference: What was done with regard to another important item on the agenda—regional conflicts, which the two great powers undoubtedly have the potential to help resolve?

The most chronic of these in recent history is the Near East conflict, at whose heart is the Palestinian question. There is no doubt that it was precisely the aforesaid potential of the Soviet Union and the United States that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, for example, had in mind (the U.S. Administration, incidentally, considers him its closest ally in the Arab world) when he addressed a message to the Soviet and U.S. leaders urging them to make vigorous efforts to settle the Near East crisis. He emphasized here that the Arab people of Palestine are

still deprived of their legitimate national rights. Yes, it is a question of an entire people who, owing to the nonfulfillment of the UN General Assembly resolution on the partition of Palestine, which was adopted back in 1947, and because of the subsequent Arab-Israeli wars, have been deprived of their motherland and ended up in exile.

The just-ended UN General Assembly session once again adopted a resolution calling on all states to support the idea of convening an international conference on the Near East. A conference under UN auspices, with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members and all the sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, it states, is the only way to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in that region. The UN General Assembly reaffirmed in another resolution that the question of Palestine lies at the basis of the conflict in the Near East and that without the Palestinian people's full realization of their inalienable national rights and without Israel's immediate, unconditional, and full withdrawal from all the occupied territories it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

I believe that just such actions were implied, in particular, when the CPSU Central Committee general secretary invited U.S. President R. Reagan during the Washington meeting to "consider a joint approach to resolving regional conflicts from such a viewpoint: We are now witnessing the world community's indisputable desire to resolve existing regional conflicts by political means." The Soviet leader went on to emphasize that this gives the USSR and the United States—two countries on which much depends—the opportunity to really do something to resolve these burning problems in world politics. Speaking specifically about the Near East crisis at the Washington press conference, the leader of the Soviet Union declared: "I asked the President to reconsider the U.S. Administration's attitude to preparing and holding an international conference on the Near East because it seems to me that there exists broad agreement in the world on the expediency and possibility of holding one."

As is known, an appropriate response has not yet been received from the U.S. Administration to these Soviet proposals, although high-ranking White House spokesmen always emphasize that the United States repeatedly raised the question of human rights during the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington. But how? It is clear even to the naked eye that it did so in a self-interested way, using this humanitarian problem chiefly to interfere in the Soviet Union's internal affairs and to try to change existing Soviet legislation, particularly that concerning entry to and exit from the country.

But what is the U.S. Administration's attitude to the Palestinians' right to self-determination, which belongs to every people from birth, and the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homes, which is recognized everywhere? A characteristic answer to these questions is

provided, for example, by the U.S. delegation's behavior when this same UN General Assembly session adopted a resolution condemning Israel's policy and practice in the occupied Arab territories as war crimes and as an insult to mankind and describing the very occupation of those lands as a very serious violation of human rights. The U.S. representative—together with his Israeli colleague, of course—simply voted against that resolution.

But, to return to the question of convening an international conference on the Near East, I wish to cite the words which King Husayn of Jordan, who, incidentally, also has close ties with the United States, spoke recently in an interview in the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR. "The overwhelming majority of countries in the world," the monarch declared, "have accepted this idea since it is a practical idea for a just and comprehensive settlement of a problem which is destabilizing the situation in that region and having an impact on peace throughout the world. Opposition stems only from extremist Israeli circles and from the United States, which is under the influence of those extremists." In the light of this formulation of the question the latest action in indulging the Israeli aggressors—the treaty which the United States has just signed with the Israeli Government granting Israel the same opportunities for military cooperation with Washington as its NATO allies—also appears perfectly natural.

These, as a matter of fact, are the things that come to light when you start to think seriously about the question of human rights. The Palestinian problem is, after all, the result of just one regional conflict.

'International Situation—Questions & Answers'

*LD182308 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1030 GMT 18 Dec 87*

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program presented by Yevgeniy Grachev, All-Union Radio foreign policy commentator; with Vladimir Baidashin, TASS collegium member and chief editor of the Main Editorial Information Office for Abroad; Igor Charikov, commentator; Vladimir Fadeyev, commentator; Igor Surguchev, commentator; Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, commentator; and Boris Andrianov, commentator]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Grachev] I would like to cite what Comrade Yakov Tikhonovich Makarov of Krivozerka, Penza Oblast, says. Yakov Tikhonovich is a war and labor veteran, a constant listener, who sent in two—no, three—letters on the problem of curbing the arms race. I said two letters because they were written, as you will understand in a moment, before the visit to Washington by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and before he met U.S. President Reagan and before the signing of the historic document eliminating two classes of nuclear missiles.

Comrade Makarov writes: The meeting in Washington is hardly likely to be of any practical success. I personally, as a war veteran, do not believe in the success of negotiations. Well now, such opinions were current on the eve of the summit meeting, and these fears are understandable—the U.S. leaders were too uncompromising in conducting their affairs when efforts for peace were required from them.

Comrade Makarov goes on to write that the peoples expect practical deeds relating to the elimination of various classes of thermonuclear weapons. Of course, after the summit meeting other ideas began to be expressed in letters, and other questions were raised by radio listeners. We shall try to answer these questions. With me in the studio is Vladimir Goreyevich Baidashin, member of the TASS Collegium and chief editor of the Main Editorial Information Office for Abroad.

[Baidashin] Many radio listeners will have noticed while reading the newspapers, I think, that they contain a special selection of responses prepared by TASS correspondents in various countries relating to the reactions in the world to the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting. I would point out that the TASS selections of responses published in the newspapers is only a small part of what our correspondents filed during those days. Indeed, there are a very large number of responses to this event. The heads of state of various countries throughout the world, countries belonging either to the opposing military-political blocs or to the nonaligned states, prominent political and public figures in these countries, and ordinary people—all consider it their duty to express their attitude to what happened as a result of the visit to Washington by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the general secretary of our party's Central Committee, and his talks with President Ronald Reagan. In the overwhelming majority of cases, this attitude is extremely positive. [passage omitted: U.S.-USSR summit and signing of INF treaty an unprecedented historic event]

True, at present there are some politicians in the United States and a few other Western countries who are trying to belittle the importance of the Soviet-U.S. treaty signed in Washington, putting forward as their main argument the fact that only 4% of the nuclear arsenals of the two countries are to be eliminated. Mikhail Sergeyevich, I think, gave a very convincing reply to such assertions in his recent speech on Soviet television: One should not forget, he said, that scientists estimate that only 5% is required in order to destroy every living thing on earth.

It is no accident at all that the head of the U.S. Administration, President Reagan, described the treaty signed as the most important step toward curbing the arms race since World War II. In a speech the other day at the Washington Center for Strategic and International Studies, President Reagan declared literally the following: The agreement which General Secretary Gorbachev and I signed last week is an epoch-making achievement. It is an important step on the way toward strengthening

world security. As a result of this agreement, the President said, there is hope that East-West relations can be placed on a more healthy footing.

[Grachev] Vladimir Goreyevich, our listeners are aware that there was also an all-embracing and thorough discussion at the Washington meeting on the most wide circle of issues concerning Soviet-U.S. relations, including human rights, humanitarian issues, settlement of regional conflicts, and also bilateral relations. Now this is most noteworthy.

[Baidashin] Yes, you are right. The U.S. mass media frequently use the word breakthrough to describe the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. And there was indeed a breakthrough at that meeting: A breakthrough in mutual understanding on many issues, upon which the positions of the two sides were formerly as far apart as Moscow and Washington. The main breakthrough occurred in the understanding of the fact that the differences of opinion which exist—and they do indeed exist, some of them very serious ones—are not an insurmountable obstacle to progress in spheres that are of mutual interest.

So that listeners may get a better idea of the extent of the breakthrough that has now taken place in Soviet-U.S. relations, I shall quote the words of the West German defense minister, Manfred Woerner, who in 1983 said literally the following: I shall crawl on my knees from my constituency to Bonn if medium-range missiles are removed from Europe. Well, now Woerner will have to crawl 400 KM, no more and no less.

Politicians and historians will still continue to thoroughly analyze the results of the Washington summit meeting. However, as far as the world mass media are concerned, they are already unanimous in describing the latest meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan as the main news event of 1987, the year now coming to an end. [passage omitted]

Mankind has long been seriously ailing from the fear of war and there will be no rapid cure. But everyone hopes for recovery, both we and the Americans. One should not forget the moment when, welcoming Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the White House, President Reagan related how Americans had sent him their door keys, in expectation of the visit. A visit to the Soviet Union by the U.S. President is in prospect: And if a new meeting will reduce even further the threshold of armaments, we are ready to send President Reagan our door keys. [passage omitted]

[Grachev] In their letters, many listeners ask one single question: When will our sons return home from Afghanistan? Muscovites Comrades Dyachenko, Yemerena, Kubasova, and Mikhail Vasilyevich Novikov want to know more. They are interested in whether the U.S. Administration will throw a wrench in the works of the process of national reconciliation after a positive result is

reached at the Geneva negotiations, and when Afghanistan will once again be in need of our international assistance? I asked my colleague, Commentator Vladimir Fadeyev, to give his point of view on this.

[Fadeyev] Many of us watched the president of Afghanistan, Najibullah, speaking on television a few weeks ago—it was his first appearance in his new role, incidentally, as the newly elected president of the country—put forward a proposal regarding the timetable for withdrawal of Soviet troops. This was, I think, a long-awaited moment for many people. The land of Afghanistan, generous as it is, is spattered with the blood of our boys, so this news means a great deal and not only for those who follow events in that region with parental anguish. We link this news also with the solution of many other problems at what I might call a government level. For over all these years that our troops have been in Afghanistan at the request of its government, with the sole and single aim of helping the Afghans to resist interference from outside, we have surely never stopped saying that we most of all desire the most rapid possible settlement of the problem of Afghanistan, that we most of all want peace to reign in the land of our southern neighbor, and on our southern borders.

Throughout these years we have declared to the United States and Pakistan: Stop armed and financial aid to the dushmans, and we will withdraw our troops. Let the Afghans resolve their internal problems themselves. But No! The April revolution will soon be marking its 10th anniversary, yet throughout all these years armed and other interference in the destiny of the sovereign country and its people has not ceased for a single day. Furthermore, it has been steadily growing in scale.

This year alone, Washington has dispatched \$715 million for arms to the dushman bosses. The U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT weekly says that this is the largest aid to any rebel movement. As part of this aid, the dushmans have already received 900 Stinger missiles. And you, comrades, are well aware that that they do not stop at using these against aircraft carrying civilian passengers. Incidentally, just recently official Washington promised to bring this aid up to \$1 billion next year.

I do not know how this matter will be resolved now, following the summit meeting in Washington. One would like to hope that in spite of the fact that in the course of the discussion about the possibilities for the two countries to bring about a political settlement of regional conflicts, we—as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted in his television speech—did not make much progress, there will be people in the U.S. Administration for whom the issue of reducing international tension and improving relations between our countries will prevail over political adventurism, that is, the aspiration to dictate to other countries, especially those which have set out on the road of revolutionary transformation of society, how they should live and what friends they should choose.

This latter custom would seem to have become the basis of U.S. foreign policy. Judge for yourselves, comrades: Not even a week has elapsed since Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev returned from Washington, yet voices are already being raised in Washington calling for the forthcoming ratification of the treaty on medium- and short-range missiles to be made conditional upon unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. At the same time, some people in the West are trying to assert that we will not leave Afghanistan until a coalition government which suits us is formed there.

You see what a direct link there is between these two postulates, apparently so far removed from one another. It should be obvious to the U.S. man in the street: The Russians are to blame for all evils on earth. I do not know how things will go in the Senate over the ratification of the treaty signed in Washington, it is true: One hopes that reason will prevail there.

But as for withdrawal of our troops being dependent upon the nature and composition of a future coalition government of Afghanistan—something thought up for the U.S. man in the street—we have never linked these two issues. Furthermore, at the very start of the national reconciliation policy going into force, we stressed that all problems related to this policy, including the composition of the government, must be and would be settled by the Afghans themselves, at home and in their own country, and not elsewhere, in Washington, say, or in Islamabad. In fact the Pakistani side is due shortly to give its yes or no on this question at the Geneva talks. Let's wait for the results. Let's look and see whether goodwill over this will also be shown by the United States. It's upon this, Yevgeniy Tikhonovich, that the time scale for the return home of our soldiers will depend. That's how I think I would answer the questions from our listeners, too.

[Grachev] Many questions in our current mailbag are about events in the Persian Gulf Region. For example, Petr Sergeyevich Tregubov, from the village of Potapovka in the Gomel Oblast of Belorussia asks about the role of the UN in the settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict and in the prospects of ending this war; while Comrade Kutkin from Sverdlovsk asks why Iran is attacking Greek tankers in the Persian Gulf? Igor Surguchev, my colleague and commentator, replies to these listeners:

[Surguchev] As is known, the UN is making a great deal of efforts to halt the Iran-Iraq war as quickly as possible, and Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general, is taking part in them personally. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that this decision of the Security Council has created a good foundation for a peaceful, political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict. However there have not yet been any real advances in that direction. In UN circles, therefore, it is considered that the question of further measures to ensure fulfillment of Resolution 598 might get onto the agenda, that is to say the adoption by

the Security Council of international sanctions against a side that refuses to observe the resolution. The Soviet Union is in agreement with this in principle, but believes that the efforts of mediation by the UN secretary general are not yet fully exhausted. The main emphasis now, therefore, is being placed upon the contacts between the warring sides and Perez de Cuellar. In particular, by a

decision of the Security Council he has been instructed to send a group of UN observers for verifying, confirming, and observing fulfillment of a cease-fire and withdrawal of troops, and also to examine, in consultation with Iran, Iraq, and other states in the region, measures for strengthening security and stability in this region. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

PRAVDA Editorial on Implications of Summit *PM221145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87* *Second Edition p 1*

[Editorial: "In Keeping With the Peoples' Hopes; Proceeding Further Along the Road of Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] Mankind has greeted the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons in Washington with tremendous satisfaction. A historic step has been taken. The peoples of the world have received a good New Year's gift.

When the Soviet Union put forward the program for ridding the planet of nuclear and other mass annihilation weapons by the year 2000, many people considered this to be utopian. It is now being confirmed that the aim pursued by the Soviet Union is realistic provided, of course, that it is fought for with determination.

Expressing full approval of the work carried out by M.S. Gorbachev during his visit to the United States, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo noted: "The signing in Washington of the Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is an important milestone in international development. A practical start has been made on building a world without nuclear weapons."

Removing the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and creating reliable guarantees for mankind's survival—this is the course that was proclaimed by the 27th party congress and the 15 January 1986 program for a nuclear-free world and is pursued by the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

Geneva, Reykjavik, Washington—these are the three main milestones which mark the progress along this path. And at each of the meetings the Soviet side put forward large-scale initiatives and sought to remove obstacles and achieve mutual understanding and the adoption of specific decisions. These efforts bore fruit. The agreement that has been reached is a major international political event and a victory for the new political thinking. For the first time it is a question of actually destroying part of the nuclear arsenal. The treaty has demonstrated to all the feasibility of a switch from the arms race to disarmament.

The signing of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles paves the way toward the solution of the key problem of the USSR, the United States, and all states, namely real and radical cuts in strategic offensive arms. As is well known, the Soviet Union has persistently advocated a 50% cut in these weapons.

The experience accumulated at the talks to date has created the possibility of achieving a serious breakthrough in this sphere. It also proved possible to achieve substantial progress in this area in Washington. The Soviet and U.S. delegations in Geneva have been instructed to draw up an accord which would oblige both sides to observe the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and not to withdraw from it for the duration of an agreed period. A treaty on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms could be signed in Moscow during the U.S. president's visit.

The accords achieved in Washington are already having a beneficial impact on the world political climate. For a long time the advocates of the arms race claimed that the question of verification presented an insurmountable obstacle in the achievement of accords between countries. Now this trump card has been knocked out of their hands. The treaty makes provision for the strictest, truly unprecedented verification and inspection measures. This proves once again that, given goodwill, a solution can be found to the most complex questions.

The opponents of international cooperation are now looking for new ways and means to halt the disarmament train which has been set in motion.

They are trying hard to gamble on the difficulties of the solution of the question of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe. This is indeed a difficult question, but after all, the sides now have the experience of drafting the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles. This must be put to maximum use in solving the question of conventional arms. The Warsaw Pact states are prepared to stick to levels sufficient to ensure their defense and to resolve the problem of asymmetries and imbalances in individual types of weapons by arms cuts on the side of whoever has the advantage. As for the Soviet Union, it is prepared to agree to the most radical reductions. Here too, the decision now lies with the NATO countries.

One of the results of the Soviet leader's visit to Washington is a certain improvement in bilateral Soviet-U.S. relations. A real opportunity has emerged of opening a new stage in the relations between our countries. However, it is still too early to speak of a radical breakthrough. Much remains to be done in this area and the Soviet Union hopes that its efforts in this field will meet with the understanding and support of the U.S. side.

In the course of the summit talks serious differences were revealed during the discussion of the situation in various parts of the world. The Soviet side pursued a consistent line toward finding new approaches to the settlement of regional conflicts. All peoples have the right to choose their own path of development, and interference from outside is impermissible—this is the fundamental position of the Soviet Union.

The fact that no sooner had the talks in Washington ended when certain circles in the West launched into efforts aimed at preventing any further changes for the better and halting the disarmament process cannot fail to cause concern. It has been claimed, for instance, that the summit talks allegedly removed the differences on the question of SDI and that therefore it is possible to freely forge ahead with the implementation of the "Star Wars" program. These are dangerous tendencies. They could undermine the change which has emerged in the process of the demilitarization of international relations.

The treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles is the result of many years of intensive effort. As part of all peoples, it is a common victory for all. An outstanding contribution to this achievement has been made by the countries of the socialist bloc. The Soviet delegation acted in Washington in the spirit of the kind of mandate which it received from its allies. The hopes of our socialist allies are fully justified. At the meeting in Berlin the leaders of the Pact states assessed the results achieved. The talks with the U.S. President as an expression of the common peace-loving course of the fraternal countries and their initiatives and actions.

The Soviet-U.S. accords provide mankind with a historic chance to begin to cast off the heavy burden of militarism and war. This chance must not be missed! The Soviet Union will do everything incumbent on it to ensure this.

PRAVDA Assesses Treaty Prospects in Senate

PM221209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Dec 87 Second Edition p 6

[PRAVDA political observer Gennadiy Vasilyev dispatch: "Contours of the Future"]

[Excerpt] Washington-Moscow, December [dateline as published]—[passage omitted] An unusual, not to say strange situation has now emerged in the United States around the Treaty on Intermediate and Shorter-range Missiles. The president, who has irreproachable "credentials" as a conservative, is being attacked by the right, primarily from the ranks of his own Republican Party. Yet his decision is being supported by those who were recently his critics—the supporters of arms limitation and of seeking accords with the Soviet Union, including prominent Democrats. Rightists, especially "extremists" like Viguier or General Graham, are furiously attacking the treaty and have accused the administration of "voluntarily relinquishing the military trump card"—the possibility of striking the USSR's vitally important centers in 7-8 minutes—and of "depriving Western Europe of defense" against the "Soviets' superior tank forces." It seems that they will not be able to block Senate ratification of the treaty although they will try to hinder the two countries' progress toward the next central accord on a radical 50-percent reduction in strategic

offensive armaments and will urge the United States and the NATO countries to accelerate the buildup of military equipment in other spheres, including in space.

"It Seemed Incredible Yesterday" [subhead]

A summit meeting is not only a direct dialogue between the supreme leaders of the USSR and the United States. It also involves sessions between the members of the two countries' delegations where they work out the details of eventual agreements, press conferences given by experts, and contacts between our specialists and U.S. specialists. And it sometimes happens that during a single episode in this turbulent activity you suddenly see something very important which illuminates the essence of our times. This was how I thought of the meeting between the Soviet delegation's military expert and U.S. specialists which I happened to attend. The Americans, representatives of the Council for the Defense of Natural Resources, came to our hotel, the "Madison," to elaborate on data about the opposing military machines' armaments. They put two bulky books on the table containing composite data on the U.S. nuclear forces. They said that they are now working on the next volume—on the USSR's nuclear forces. They asked us to have a look at the rough drafts and amplify figures obtained from U.S. sources.

Difficult work for my new acquaintance, I thought. What was he to do? Refuse to answer the Americans' request? Start, as they say, to muddle things? The Soviet general took the tables which the Americans had brought and took out his own notes. "You have obviously overstated the numbers here," our expert said. "Instead of 475 I would write 'approximately 400.' And this is also incorrect; you have included both the missiles already deployed and those en route to the troops..."

Our expert seemed to be giving away military secrets to a potential enemy. But he gave the representatives of the public organization alarmed by the arms race data which, I think, U.S. spokesmen in Geneva have had for a long time. These talks take place out of sight and we somehow do not think that they talk with one another in minute detail and in a businesslike fashion. Yet this is the only way to find mutually acceptable solutions and work out agreements which correspond with the interests of both sides and strengthen universal security. Yes, military confrontation is a fact of life and concern for our country's defense is one of the priorities of our government and our people. But at the same time providing the sides with sufficient information about one another's armed forces has become an important factor for international stability.

You read the joint Soviet-U.S. summit statement and you glance through the text of the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles—and your eyes involuntarily alight on eloquent details. The exchange of

most detailed data both about the armaments encompassed by the treaty and also facilities for their production, strict verification of the elimination of missiles and launch installations, including on-site inspection, the permanent presence of U.S. inspectors at the Votkinsk Machine Building Plant in the Udmurt ASSR and Soviet inspectors at the No.1 "Hercules" Plant in the city of Magna, Utah—not so long ago this would have seemed incredible! Today it is a reality.

Yes, the world is changing. What seemed impossible and fantastic yesterday is commonplace today and is becoming part of the practical work of interstate relations. The contours of the future are emerging from the rich material of the Washington summit—a world where the interests of the sides are served not by covering up facts but by mutually supplying information, a world where security is ensured not by one side's military superiority over the other but by means of observance of a level of sufficient security, a world in which war is excluded from the arsenal of the two socioeconomic systems' means of confrontation.

The nuclear missile age has set a fast pace. Individuals and entire peoples are maturing and gathering wisdom. I would not dare to talk about the irreversibility of the changes for the better in Soviet-U.S. relations if only because such a formulation of the question assigns us the role of passive observers of the changes whereas only people's conscious activity can ensure further progress. But I think that we have every reason to look to the future optimistically.

Cooperation between two great powers at the level of their supreme leaders has not only become a regular phenomenon but has also become increasingly intensive and specific. Two years ago in Geneva the foundations of this historic dialogue were laid and principles for the two countries' behavior in the international arena specified. A year later in Reykjavik an intellectual breakthrough was achieved in Soviet-U.S. relations, which opened up the previously apparently fantastic prospect of a nonnuclear world. The Washington meeting will remain in people's memories as a major step in this direction, as the first time in the history of nuclear weapons where it was decided to eliminate two classes of these weapons of mass destruction as good groundwork both for future actions promoting peace and for genuine security.

TASS Reacts to U.S. Report on Afghan Issue
*LD222107 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1542 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[“On the U.S. Position With Regard to Afghanistan”—
TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 22 Dec (TASS)—Have any encouraging shifts taken place in Washington's position on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan? If a

routine report issued by the U.S. State Department and tendentiously headlined “Afghanistan—8 Years of Soviet Occupation” is anything to go by, the answer is no.

The report abounds in assurances alleging that the United States is striving for a “settlement through talks”; that, as it is put, Washington “supports the efforts of the personal representative of the UN secretary general, aimed at reaching settlement.”

However, if real deeds, rather than words, are to be judged, it turns out that Washington continues to intend to support the mercenary bandits, facilitating a continuation of the bloody, fratricidal war. After all, Washington promised to respect the Geneva agreements on settling the situation around Afghanistan, provisions of which, already agreed upon, envisage promises to refrain from interfering in that country's internal affairs and, together with the USSR, to act as a guarantor of these agreements.

What sort of noninterference can this be, if Washington continues to supply weaponry and money to Afghanistan's counterrevolutionary forces, albeit under the guise of “humane aid”? It is widely known to what “humane aid” of this kind leads: the bandits, who have been given state-of-the-art weapons, including the “Stinger” antiaircraft missiles, are already responsible for thousands of civilian victims; hundreds of destroyed mosques, hospitals, and schools, and several civilian and transport aircraft that have been shot down. Nor is there any end in sight for these crimes, the responsibility for which is borne not only by the bandits, but also by their masters and patrons on the other side of the ocean.

Micheal Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, addressing a briefing held in connection with the issue of the “Afghan” report, also ignored the new Soviet and Afghan initiatives—the political decision on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops in the space of 12 months and even before that. This, naturally, on the condition that the date of the commencement of troop withdrawals will simultaneously mark the start of halting the arms aid to, and financing of the bandits. This constructive, realistic proposal remains unanswered in Washington. In his ABC interviews, the U.S. president in essence declined to give a pledge to refrain from supplying the counterrevolutionary forces during the period of the limited Soviet military contingent's return home from Afghanistan. Armacost now reiterates this position. More and large allocations for aid for the bandits, planned for 1988, represent yet another confirmation of this.

The report again peddles the matter of a “satisfactory withdrawal schedule of the Soviet troops” upon which the problem of settling the situation around Afghanistan is being made to depend. However, the specific and practical U.S. actions and the United States's entire approach to this problem give rise to the question: Is Washington at all interested in achieving settlement? It

looks very much as though fanning up a hotbed of armed conflict in this region is more in keeping with the interests of the United States's neoglobalist policy than a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

Report Termed 'Provocative'

*LD221240 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1150 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec (TASS)—A TASS diplomatic correspondent reports:

On Monday a special briefing was held in the U.S. State Department in connection with the publication of a report which bears a clearly provocative title—Afghanistan: 8 years of the Soviet Occupation. The man in charge of the briefing, Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, claimed that the so-called Afghan resistance has made progress in the political sphere.

In this connection, diplomatic quarters in Moscow direct attention to the fact that this new action on the part of the U.S. foreign policy service has been undertaken when national reconciliation, which, as Afghan president Najibullah said, has become a reality for all the people of that country, is gathering pace in the republic. Moreover, during last week's visit to Moscow by Diego Cordovez, a UN under secretary general the Soviet Union reiterated its readiness in any way to promote the success of a settlement in Afghanistan that would allow the internal bloody conflict to be ended, and the possibility of its resurgence to be averted. Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated at a recent Washington press conference, "We do not want, and nor do we strive for, a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan. But the U.S. side must state clearly in just such a way, that it is not striving for a pro-U.S. regime there."

Events in Afghanistan disturb the Soviet Union. They disturb those who have performed or are performing their internationalist duty and whose families have experienced the sorrow of loss. Thus in applying all its strength to solve the Afghan problem, the USSR is right to demand an honorable stance from the United States on this question. The time-scale for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has already been named—12 months, it could be less. However, the start of withdrawal must be simultaneous with the ending of aid in the form of arms and finance to the dushmans.

The Soviet Union has always seen in the Afghan people its own good neighbor and friend. There is underway a search for new forms of our traditional links. Therefore any attempts by the U.S. Administration to turn our two friendly peoples off the road will not achieve their aim.

It is time for the Washington protectors of the dushmans to take the one decision reasonable in the present circumstances—stopping aid to the dushman military

formations and giving the Afghan people the opportunity to solve their own problems under peaceful conditions. The entire world community is appealing for this.

U.S. Naval 'Escalation' in Persian Gulf Noted

*LD221755 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT
22 Dec 87*

[Text] New York December 22 TASS—The U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf have received new instructions from the Pentagon in carrying out their operations. As was reported today by the newspaper NEW YORK TIMES, the defense department which a month ago reconsidered its rules of engagement in the Persian Gulf, allowed the U.S. warships here to meet protection requests from ships of NATO member countries, which were attacked.

Before getting new instructions, commanders of American combatant ships in the Persian Gulf, according to the press, provided the cover only to ships within the convoys which were under their protection. By giving additional tasks to the U.S. Navy, the Pentagon sanctioned the escalation of American military interference in that explosive region.

TASS Commentator on Impasse in Middle East

*LD221824 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT
22 Dec 87*

["Who Is to Blame for an Impasse?"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev writes:

An impasse in which the population of such Israel-occupied areas as the Gaza Strip has landed is characteristic of the overall Middle East situation. This was said in an interview to the CBS television network by former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near-Eastern and South Asian affairs Joseph Sisco. He said that thousands upon thousands of people in the Gaza strip live in dire poverty, having virtually no hope for the improvement of their situation.

The admission of a former high official of the State Department who did a lot for the implementation of the Middle Eastern course of the U.S. Administration is quite eloquent. Meanwhile, as the developments showed, it is precisely that pro-Israeli, essentially anti-Arab course that enabled the Zionists to engage in armed brigandage against Arab countries over decades, to perpetrate genocide against the Arab people of Palestine, to annex lands of others. Washington has been constantly strengthening Israel's military machine, seeking to ensure by the latest armaments supplies its military superiority over Arabs. The United States followed in the footsteps of British colonialists who were arming Zionist-minded Jews in Palestine against rebellious Palestinian Arabs back in 1936.

Having voted at the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly against the resolution qualifying Israel's actions in occupied territories [words indistinct] crimes, the resolution endorsed by the overwhelming majority of votes. Washington had actually assumed protection of Israeli punitive forces and again tried to provide a diplomatic cover for Tel Aviv.

The impasse in the Middle East, just as dire poverty and desperate situation of many thousands of Palestinians in occupied territories are a direct consequence of the policy of the imperialist and Zionist circles, of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands, Tel Aviv's enormous expansionist appetites, the refusal of the participants in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance to recognize the inalienable rights of Palestinian Arabs to national self-determination and creation of their own independent state.

Foundation Confers Awards on Reagan, Gorbachev
PM221135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
20 Dec 87 Second Edition p1

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch under the rubric "International Information": "For the General Good"]

[Text] Washington, 19 Dec—The prospect of a normal human relationship between the USSR and the United States which has opened up since the summit meeting excites American public opinion. Even here in Washington—a very specific sort of city—you meet people time and again who talk effusively about the possibility of friendship, mutual understanding, or, in any case, the desire to find out about one another.

During the meeting an international press center was set up in the Marriott Hotel, which served as an original symbol of the new stage reached in relations between the two great powers. Now the hubbub of people's voices has died away and the correspondents have all gone home. But the symbol remains. A formal ceremony chaired by the educational "Benjamin Olender Foundation" was held here recently. The foundation decided that its annual award "For Outstanding Achievements in the Task of Strengthening Peace" should be conferred on M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan. The well known American lawyer Jack Olender presented the awards—bronze plates—to representatives of the two sides. Yu.v. Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, received the award on behalf of the Soviet leader.

J. Olender said in a conversation with your correspondent: "We here in the United States are very encouraged by this real possibility of survival. Public opinion polls show that Americans respond very positively to Mikhail Gorbachev. They are in favor of strengthening peace and reducing arms. People everywhere are very concerned with the problems of achieving peace and harmony. The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-range and

Shorter-range Missiles signed in Washington is a very important, crucial step—a step in the only right direction. The direction all of us must take."

This symbolic gesture by the foundation embodies the thoughts and feelings of many Americans. Members of the Soviet embassy in the United States showed me huge boxes of telegrams and letters addressed to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. They vary in content and wording but they are all exciting evidence of the opinions, hopes, and concerns of ordinary Americans.

1988 Foreign Aid Amounts Delineated
LD221821 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 22 TASS—The Congress of the United States has approved a series of bills allocating funds to the federal government for the current 1988 fiscal year. The total spending figure has been set at 606 billion dollars.

Following heated debates and [word indistinct] with the Congress the White House has managed to get the legislators to meet many of its requests.

For instance, under pressure from the administration, the Congress has decided to allocate 8 million dollars in aid to the Nicaraguan contras with whose help the United States is waging an undeclared war on the Republic of Nicaragua.

45 million dollars have been set aside in so-called "economic and humanitarian aid" to Afghan dushmans, or counter-revolutionaries.

The Pinochet regime will get 1 million dollars which, as Washington officials have declared hypocritically, are intended to sustain the democratic process in Chile.

Nor has the U.S. stopped its efforts to undermine stability in Poland. One million dollars has been allocated for supporting the activities of Polish reactionary forces in the person of "Solidarity."

Although the huge deficit of the federal budget has made the legislators curtail the total spending sum, the U.S. Congress has set aside like last year, 3 billion dollars for the principal U.S. ally in the Middle East, Israel.

The Pakistani Government will get 480 million dollars.

The Salvadoran and Honduran regimes will also receive substantial sums.

China

Rogachev Briefs PRC Government on INF Treaty *LD221956 Moscow TASS in English* *1840 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Beijing December 22 TASS—I.A. Rogachev, a special envoy of the Soviet leadership, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R. had a meeting with Wu Xueqian, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, here today.

Detailed information on the results of the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan was conveyed to the Chinese side. Special attention was devoted to the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and to prospects for disarmament talks. Other matters discussed during the latest Soviet-U.S. summit meeting were also highlighted.

Expressing gratitude to the Soviet leadership for detailed information, the Chinese foreign minister welcomed the results of the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan and said that they were conducive to the process of nuclear disarmament and the relaxation of international tension.

Wu Xueqian said that only the first, although a very important, step had been made, for the matter at hand was genuine nuclear arms reduction. No such steps were made in the past, he said.

The minister expressed the hope that the next meeting between the Soviet and U.S. leaders would produce an accord on the reduction of strategic offensive arms in half—a move that would promote the cause of peace.

The Chinese side reiterated that the People's Republic of China stood firmly in favor of the total abolition of nuclear weapons and supported all steps and proposals going in that direction.

Agreements Reached on Displays, Projects *OW221143 Moscow International Service* *in Mandarin 1500 GMT 19 Dec 87*

[News briefs on Soviet-Chinese contact from the program "Advancing Along the Road of Friendship and Cooperation"]

[Text] The Soviet Union and China have agreed to hold "Soviet Science and Technology Day" in Beijing and "Chinese Science and Technology Day" in Moscow to comprehensively display their latest achievements in science and technology to the other side. The exchange of information on their application of science and technology in their national economies is bound to contribute to

the continuing reform and social and economic transformation of the two countries. The agreement provides for the participation of their scientists and intellectuals in the Science and Technology Day activities and for holding academic symposiums and exhibitions. The Soviet exhibition will open in Beijing on 7 November 1988 on the occasion of Soviet Science and Technology Day in China.

Agreement has been reached on the initial projects for the development of natural resources in the Argun and Amur Rivers in the Soviet-Chinese border regions. After studying the issue, a special Soviet-Chinese commission has proposed that two key water conservancy projects be built. One of them will be built in the upper reaches of the Amur between (Amadarsk) and Huma. Another will be built in the Xinganling area in the middle reaches of the Amur. The two key water conservancy projects will notably lessen the threat of floods and improve electricity supplies to industries and residents in the border region. The survey and design work will be jointly conducted by the two countries.

According to a news report, China has adopted a 3-year plan to increase aluminum output. A Chinese official said that by the year 2000, China will rank among the top aluminum producers in the world. To achieve this target, China is to build four new aluminum plants and renovate two old ones, including several workshops of the Fushun Aluminum Plant. Soviet experts will offer assistance to their Chinese counterparts in undertaking these projects. The China National Industrial Export Corporation and the Soviet Nonferrous Metals Export Corporation recently signed the relevant contracts.

Regional trade between the Soviet Union and China has increased more than seven-fold since the resumption of direct trade between Soviet Khabarovsk and Amur and Chita Oblasts in the coastal region, and China's Heilongjiang Province and Nei Monggol Autonomous Region. Regional trade is expected to increase by another 3.5 million yuan with the recent signing of a contract on the import and export of 28 categories of commodities between China's Suifenhe City and the USSR's (Voligela Michiney) town. According to the contract, the Soviet side will export building materials, chemical fertilizer, marine products, and home electrical appliances to China, while the Chinese side will export to the Soviet Union light industrial products and certain agricultural produce.

A group of Chinese fishery experts is visiting the Soviet Union to learn from Soviet experience in breeding salmon and sturgeon and in building fish-breeding facilities in hydropower stations. The Chinese guests visited fish ponds and met with Soviet experts on fish breeding and processing.

Another Chinese delegation has visited the Soviet Union. The Chinese Ministry of Public Health delegation held talks with its Soviet counterpart on cooperation

in exploring a number of pressing medical problems. The Chinese medical experts proposed cooperation in microphthalmological surgery, environmental sanitation, herb medicine, and the treatment and prevention of heart diseases and cancer.

Representatives of the Soviet and Chinese civil aviation departments are holding talks in Khabarovsk. The main subject of their talks is the opening of a direct route between Khabarovsk and Harbin. The new route will help increase trade and exchanges between the two cities. The two sides discussed questions related to flight, technical service, and customs. They plan to open the air route next year.

Cooperation in Higher Education Examined

*OW221349 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0300 GMT 19 Dec 87*

[Text] Listeners: We would now like to talk about Soviet-Chinese cooperation in higher education. It should be said that this has been a remarkable year for the development of such cooperation. In order to rationally expand the scope of cooperation between institutions of higher learning in the Soviet Union and China, a work group for educational cooperation was set up this spring according to a decision by the Soviet-Chinese Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation.

The following is what Comrade Mikhaylov, executive secretary of the work group, said in this regard:

According to the 1987-1990 plan for educational cooperation, the Soviet Union and China will exchange college students, trainees, and postgraduates, and expand the scope of direct contacts between institutions of higher learning in the two countries. The two countries have begun to exchange teachers this year. There are now 20 Soviet teachers teaching in key institutions of higher learning in China and as many Chinese teachers teaching in such institutions in the Soviet Union.

It should be said that this has played an important role in establishing direct contacts between institutions of higher learning in the two countries. Six Soviet institutions of higher learning signed cooperation agreements with their Chinese counterparts this year. Under the agreements, Moscow University, the biggest institution of higher learning in the Soviet Union, will begin in 1988 to cooperate with Beijing University; the Moscow College of Dynamics with Jiatong University in Shanghai; the Moscow College of Chemical Engineering with the Huadong College of Engineering; and Moscow Teachers' College with Beijing Teachers' College. The Leningrad College of Engineering and the Kiev College of Engineering have already established cooperative relations with Qinghua University and Harbin Industrial University, respectively.

In addition to the exchange of students and teachers and the supply of textbooks for each other, our tentative plan is to conduct joint research on a broad scale. For example, the Kiev College of Engineering and Harbin Industrial University will do research in dynamics, electronics, and computer technology; and Leningrad College and Qinghua University will concentrate their research on robot technology. All such research will be very beneficial to both countries.

The number of Chinese students studying in Soviet graduate schools has increased about 50 percent this academic year. [words indistinct] Chinese trainees in the Soviet Union have also considerably increased in the past year. Now there are more than 200 Chinese trainees studying in over 50 Soviet institutions of higher learning. The number of college students to study in the Soviet Union is also put on the agenda. They will study all college courses in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet and Chinese educational work groups will hold a meeting in Moscow next spring to discuss the above and other questions on the expansion of contacts between institutions of higher learning in the two countries.

Youth Delegation Visits PRC, Meets Huang Hua

*PM221421 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian
19 Dec 87 p 3*

[Report by TASS correspondent G. Krivosheyev and "our special correspondent" A. Lopukhin: "Youth News"]

[Text] Beijing—A delegation from the Committee of USSR Youth Organizations headed by its chairman, S. Chelnokov, is in the PRC. It has come to China at the invitation of the All-China Youth Federation.

A serious exchange of opinions took place on the prospects for the development of dialogue between the youth organizations of the Soviet Union and China.

In Beijing, the delegation was received by Huang Hua, vice chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and meetings took place with the leadership of the All-China Youth Federation, the Beijing federation of students, and the Chinese association of young businessmen. Substantive talks were held at the PRC Academy of Social Sciences and the editorial office of the journal ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN ("Chinese Youth"). Everywhere attention was focused on questions on the tasks and role of Chinese young people in building socialism.

Commentary on 'Pressure' on Cambodian Leaders
OW230632 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 1500 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Federov commentary]

[Text] The next round of talks between Samdech Sihanouk and Hun Sen, the head of government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK], will be held in January 1988 at Fere-en-Tardenois near Paris. This is what Samdech Sihanouk told reporters after meeting with French President Mitterrand. In this connection, station observer Federov writes:

Sihanouk sent a telegram to Hun Sen 6 days ago in which he tried to call off [ting zhi] their talks on the Cambodian issue. This occurred on 10 December. Some people in the West tended to describe this as another show of Sihanouk's bad temper. Of course, there were more profound reasons behind this. In my opinion, Sihanouk made this move under strong pressure from the Pol Pot clique and his foreign supporters. Pol Pot's so-called Khmer Rouge said that they would not participate in the dialogue with the Phnom Penh Government on national reconciliation. Under pressure from the Khmer Rouge, Son Sann, a third leader of the Cambodian opposition faction and former Cambodian prime minister, on the one hand, did not appear to oppose Sihanouk's continuing his talks but, on the other hand, refused to take part in the talks. The Khmer Rouge's foreign supporters did not take practical steps to promote efforts to settle the Cambodian issue as they themselves had said. It is under such conditions that Sihanouk announced the suspension [zhong duan] of the talks, and thus violated an agreement reached at the Fere-en-Tardenois talks near Paris on 2-4 December.

Sihanouk changed his mind 6 days later. What in the world has happened? Influential press circles in the world advocate continued talks. Samdech Sihanouk has had to consider this. Here, I would like to cite a document of the third ASEAN summit as a basis for this: This document commented that the first meeting between Sihanouk and Hun Sen was the first step toward a political settlement of the Cambodian issue. Nonaligned countries also advocate continuing the dialogue. French President Mitterrand voiced his support for efforts to seek a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue.

I think that the position of the PRK Government has played a decisive role in this. In his telegram to Sihanouk, Hun Sen said that he understood the prince's attitude. Hun Sen also proposed to hold talks with any Cambodian party at any level—to hold bilateral or multilateral talks. The position of the PRK Government is clear—it is aimed at national reconciliation and the ceasing [ting zhi] of the longstanding, wearisome conflict. Thus, Cambodia is opening up good prospects for a peaceful settlement of its national issue, and it is willing to take any measure for this purpose.

Northeast Asia

JSP Official Promotes 'Neutral Japan'

OW221112 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT
18 Dec 87

[Text] The fundamental policy line of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] is that of an unarmed and neutral Japan. Based on this line, the JSP has been resolutely opposed to the existence of the Self-Defense Forces. In an interview with the Moscow weekly NOVOYE VREMYA, Hisato Takebayashi, member of the JSP Central Executive Committee and director of the party International Bureau, said as follows: Neutrality means, first of all, taking no part in any military alliance. In that sense, the Japan-U.S. security treaty is against the principle of neutrality. The European system of security and experience gained under it is applicable to Asia, too; the USSR-U.S. INF Treaty will have a favorable impact on peace and disarmament in Asia.

In international politics, the JSP will strive for nuclear disarmament and a settlement of the problem of Korea being divided into the North and South.

Domestically, it is most important to see that Japan does not exceed the 1%-of-GNP ceiling in defense spending. The JSP seeks increasingly lower defense spending—viewing it as its obligation to invalidate the Nakasone administration's decision to remove the ceiling, and to make the government abide by the ceiling.

In Japan-USSR relations, the JSP seeks good-neighborliness, which is important, among other things, in strengthening security in the region.

Japanese Labor Activist Discusses INF Treaty

OW221412 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT
14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Some time ago, an international meeting on "The October Socialist Revolution and the Present Day" was held in Moscow. Mr Kazuhiko Watanabe, of the International Labor Movement Research Association, who attended the meeting, granted an interview to a Moscow Radio reporter. Here are the details:

[Question] What impressed you most in the meeting?

[Watanabe] For one thing, I was most impressed to find that the labor movements we have pursued or the goal of socialism we have struggled for in Japan are exactly the same as those of similar movements throughout the world. I am convinced that we are on the right track in history. [passage omitted]

[Question] The signing of the INF Treaty is now a hot topic here. What do you think of it?

[Watanabe] I live in Kanagawa, where there are such big U.S. military bases as Yokosuka and Atsugi. In size they are second only to the bases on Okinawa.

In Zushi there is an area previously used for ammunition storage. It has now become an object of debate because of a housing project for the U.S. forces there.

Taking these issues into consideration, I think that the disarmament negotiations must proceed and be developed further so the U.S. military bases in Japan can be removed or the Japan-U.S. security pact scrapped.

[Question] What are your comments on the prospects for exchanges between the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and the CPSU?

[Watanabe] It is very pleasing to us that the JSP has maintained regular exchanges with the CPSU, and we hope that the exchanges will continue.

What concerns me is that in the the labor movement field and within the JSP, the fact that the All-Japan Private-Sector Labor Council has been formed as an anticommunist stronghold in Asia with an antisocialist or anti-Soviet consciousness is going to have a great influence on the JSP. Therefore, when JSP Chairperson Doi visits the Soviet Union in January, I hope it will be an opportunity for the party to make clear that it will stick to its traditional stand on the matter. [passage omitted]

Joint Scientific Commission With Japan Held

Tolstykh Meets Japanese Official
*LD220215 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1309 GMT 21 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 21 December (TASS)—Plasma Physics and thermonuclear fusion, medicine and industrial technology, agriculture and forestry—these are the areas of interaction of scientific organizations of USSR and Japan fixed in a joint work program for 1988 that were adopted at a routine session of the Bilateral Intergovernmental Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which was held in Moscow.

There was a conversation between Boris Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR; and Kazutoshi Hasegawa, director-general of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who led the Japanese delegation at the session.

Exchanges Viewed as Vital

*OW221331 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT
17 Dec 87*

[Text] The USSR-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Committee opened its 4th meeting in Moscow on 17 December. The Japanese delegation led by Mr Hasegawa, director-general of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, came to Moscow to attend the meeting. The delegation also includes officials from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Science and Technology Agency, and other ministries and agencies. The Soviet delegation is headed by Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology Mikhaylov [title as received].

The meeting is summing up developments of USSR-Japanese government-level cooperation in the science and technology areas. The meeting is welcomed by all who truly desire to see bilateral relations revitalized, exchanges and contacts expanded and developed in various fields, and the climate of overall USSR-Japan relations improved.

Speaking of the exchanges in science and technology, we cannot but mention various artificial obstacles raised by the West, including Japan. First comes the case of Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Exports to Communist Countries]. It is well-known that some quarters in Japan believe that bilateral business cooperation, including scientific and technological cooperation, is much more important to the Soviet Union than Japan. This is too absurd a view to comment on. It would be impossible for those with a healthy sense to accept this kind of view seriously. It is clear that this view is just nonsensical, and we can find evidence in our daily life. For example, Japanese businesses have been suffering losses due to artificial restrictions on business exchanges with the Soviet Union.

The two countries have huge scientific and technological capabilities and have scored great achievements in various basic scientific fields, indicating that there is extensive potential for firm and reciprocal cooperation between Japan and the USSR. Any attempt to separate the Soviet Union from the international division of work, including cooperation with the Western countries, is clearly anachronistic.

Increased cooperation in science and technology depends on the outcome of this meeting of the USSR-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Committee. At any rate, we hope that the meeting will proceed in a constructive spirit and produce concrete results that are mutually beneficial.

Special Envoy Rogachev Visits DPRK

For Pyongyang KCNA coverage of the visit to North Korea by Igor Rogachev, deputy minister for foreign affairs, see the North Korea section of the 21 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Soviet Inefficiency in Mongolia Reported
PM221401 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian
19 Dec 87 First Edition p 3

[Dispatch by V. Lizun: "Baggage From the Past; What Is Preventing the More Effective Work of Soviet Specialists in Darhan"]

[Excerpts] Darhan-Ulaanbaatar-Moscow—[Passage omitted] Darhan, the second biggest city of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR] and founded in 1961, has no airport. Aircraft land directly in the steppe. Actually, 26 years ago there was nothing but steppe on the site of the city. Today Darhan accounts for over 10% of the entire volume of the Republic's gross industrial output, 40% of its coal, and 35% of its lime. The construction, fuel and energy, and light industries are developing. Related enterprises in our country could borrow much of value from the collective of the sheepskin coat factory. [passage omitted]

A detachment of many thousands of Soviet workers and specialists is working in Darhan. They have been sent to work in the Republic by more than 60 ministries and organizations. It would seem that collectivism, cohesion, and the desire to overcome in unison the difficulties which emerge should be manifested particularly powerfully abroad. Alas, departmental barriers are frequently proving stronger. It is sometimes far easier to reach agreement through intergovernmental channels with our Mongolian partners than to resolve a trivial issue with a colleague from another ministry.

Departmentalism and bureaucratic sluggishness are expensive. The Hotol cement plant constructed with the USSR's assistance could have met the needs of a number of Soviet organizations working in Darhan. Instead cement is brought in from hundreds and thousands of kilometers away, from cities on the other side of the border. The same applies to timber, bricks, and other construction materials.

Or take the efficiency of the work of a number of Soviet organizations. For instance, what is the practical return from the technical center created in Darhan and serviced by a substantial number of Soviet specialists? Acquaintance with progressive models of agricultural equipment? But the display hall contains tractors and combine harvesters which can be encountered on any state farm and at establishments in Darhan itself. Consultations for Mongolian machine operators? It is far easier and simpler to have consultations with Soviet specialists working locally. And the courses for improving qualifications organized at the center are so far failing to produce the required effect.

The remuneration of the labor of Soviet workers and specialists is also far from perfect. The traditional system essentially enshrines leveling down, which is no less harmful abroad than in our country.

Darhan is situated on the territory of Selenge Aymag. It is here, in regions bordering on eastern Siberia, that Mongolia's arable farming—a new sector of the national economy—is developing. But nomadic stockraising still remains the main sector for the economy. Yet here the situation has remained virtually unchanged for several decades. Its productivity is low and the sector continues to be heavily dependent on the natural elements.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Chebrikov Pays Official Visit to Vietnam
LD221855 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by correspondent L. Krichevskiy]

[Text] Comrade Chebrikov's official, friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues:

[Krichevskiy] There is a place in Hanoi that is sacred for every Vietnamese—the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum on Ba Dinh Square. The inhabitants and visitors to the Vietnamese capital come here in an endless torrent to pay tribute to the memory of the great Vietnamese patriot. Viktor Mikhaylovich Chebrikov today visited the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum. He laid a wreath to the outstanding figure of the international communist and national liberation movement.

The Soviet guest then visited the Ho Chi Minh house-museum. It was here that the president lived and worked in the last years of his life. Everything has been preserved as it was in the house. Here is his working study where Ho Chi Minh wrote many articles about the importance of Leninism to Vietnam and about Soviet-Vietnamese friendship. Viktor Mikhaylovich Chebrikov left his signature in the honorary visitors' book.

Here is the Vladimir Ilyich Lenin Memorial in (Tilang) square, in the very center of Hanoi. Comrade Chebrikov laid flowers at the foot of the memorial.

A meeting took place today between Pham Hung, chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, and the eminent Soviet guest. They exchanged opinions on questions of the domestic life of the two countries, Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation and also on a number of regional and international problems. It was noted that the revolutionary processes of radical restructuring and profound renewal in all spheres of life, which are taking place in the Soviet Union and Vietnam, are promoting the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The Vietnamese leader gave a high appraisal of the results of Comrade Gorbachev's visit to Washington and noted the immense significance of the treaty on the elimination of medium and shorter-range missiles.

Results of ASEAN Conference Weighed

PM231209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

["Notes" by political observer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov:
"Propping Each Other Up"]

[Text] The liberated countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America do not want to be objects of anyone's politics or pawns on a chessboard. They wish to speak with their own voice, to champion their own interests together. And, at the same time, they are becoming increasingly clearly aware that mankind's survival and the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe have become the top priority in international affairs. This trend was graphically reflected by the ASEAN conference held in Manila this week. The heads of state and government of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei have published a joint statement for the press. It hails the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles recently signed in Washington as the first step toward genuine nuclear disarmament. The hope is expressed that it will contribute to still more significant agreements on this path and that the new atmosphere of Soviet-U.S. cooperation will assist the speedy and just settlement of protracted conflicts and problems in Southeast and Southwest Asia, the Near East, and southern Africa.

As Indonesian President Suharto declared at the meeting, the Washington treaty will have a stabilizing effect on the situation in Southeast Asia and inspires hope that mankind will be delivered from the threat of nuclear suicide.

M.S. Gorbachev's greetings message to C. Aquino, president of the Philippines and chairman of the Manila meeting, elicited a broad response in Southeast Asia. The public and the press noted with satisfaction that the USSR values ASEAN'S peace-loving efforts and the attention that the association's members have paid to the Soviet initiatives on problems of the Asia and Pacific region.

In the Manila declaration, the ASEAN members reaffirmed adherence to their concept: to turn Southeast Asia as quickly as possible into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality and to proclaim it a nuclear-free zone—which would be "a regional contribution to the cause of universal and complete disarmament." Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed called for increased efforts to realize this idea, since the success of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue creates a favorable atmosphere for this.

The unblocking of the conflict situation around Cambodia by political means would help to strengthen peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The ASEAN leaders evaluated the talks that have begun between Hun Sen, chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk as an important step in this

direction. They welcomed the Soviet Union's declared readiness to continue helping in every possible way to eliminate the hotbed of tension and settle this important problem for the Asia and Pacific region.

While reaffirming their adherence to the idea of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia, the participants in the Manila meeting did not, however, take any practical steps to prepare a corresponding treaty. And here there was, by all accounts, hidden opposition from the United States.

As is known, Washington strategists reacted with irritation to the Rarotonga Treaty, which proclaimed the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. For the ASEAN countries, which are becoming increasingly afraid of being drawn into the East-West military confrontation, the initiative of their southern neighbors is valuable not only as a precedent but also as a ready-made pattern. However, the region's nuclear-free status would be an obstacle to the Pentagon using major U.S. military bases in the Philippines. And talks on their future are to begin soon. Tokyo expresses solidarity with Washington's position on this question. And it was no coincidence that the Japanese prime minister turned up at the Manila meeting with a program of economic aid to ASEAN in the form of preferential loans and credits worth \$2 billion.

Questions of regional cooperation occupied an important place at the Manila conference. ASEAN was set up 20 years ago with the aim, above all, of helping to accelerate economic, social, and cultural development. The ASEAN members have now set the task of activating ties among the 6 states with a total population of approximately 300 million people and working toward their economic integration after the pattern of the West European "Common Market."

Trade with each other, at present, makes up just one-fifth of the ASEAN countries' commodity turnover. Their conditions are different. Singapore, for example, is inferior only to Japan in terms of economic indicators in Asia. And thanks to oil, Brunei's quarter-million inhabitants have, according to statistics, almost the highest per capita national income. On the other hand, Indonesia and the Philippines lag considerably in terms of levels of prosperity. As with Thailand and Malaysia, their exports are dominated by raw material goods and agricultural products. The homogeneity of the export structure objectively makes them competitors.

As for the ASEAN countries' industrial output, it is increasingly frequently coming up against protectionist barriers on the part of the developed capitalist powers. Measures taken by the United States and West Europe against Japanese trade expansion frequently ricochet against goods produced in Southeast Asian countries. Like all developing states, the ASEAN members suffer from unbalanced exchange, other injustices of colonialism in international trade, and from the stock exchange fevers that shake the capitalist world.

The Manila declaration outlines measures to expand trade, and economic, scientific, and technical ties within the association, to lower tariff barriers, and to create joint enterprises, development projects, and experience exchange programs. The setting up of broad equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation among the states of the Asia and Pacific region—which is what the participants in the Manila meeting advocated—is the right way to trust and mutual understanding among the peoples and to a healthier political climate in Asia and the Pacific.

Near East & South Asia

Further on Husayn, Delegation Visit to Moscow

Gromyko, Husayn Hold Talks

PM221509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87
Second Edition pp 1, 4

[TASS report under general heading: "On an Official Visit; Arrival in Moscow; Soviet-Jordanian Talks"]

[Text] Talks between A.A. Gromyko and King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who has arrived in the Soviet Union on an official visit, opened in the Kremlin 21 December.

Taking part in the talks are: on the Soviet side E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; B.I. Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade; A.I. Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; V.P. Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Near East and North Africa department, and A.I. Zinchuk, USSR Ambassador to Jordan; and on the Jordanian side Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn; Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of Jordan; Marwan al-Qasim, senior adviser to the King; Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakif, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister; Division General Muhammad Taysir Za'rur, deputy chief of General Staff; Division General Ihsan Shurdum, commander of the Air Force; Brigadier General Hanna Najjar, inspector general of the Air Force; and Fahih al-Tawil, Jordanian ambassador to the USSR.

At the outset of the talks King Husayn of Jordan, speaking on behalf of all the Arab heads of state who attended the recent conference in Amman, conveyed to

the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership warm wishes and appreciation for the consistent and firm stance taken by the USSR on the problems confronting all Arabs.

On the first day of the talks the discussion centered on key problems of the present time—the removal of the nuclear threat, the elimination of various types of mass annihilation weapons, the strengthening of comprehensive security, and ways of resolving problems pertaining to regional hotbeds of tension, above all in the Near East and the area where the Iran-Iraq war is blazing.

A.A. Gromyko emphasized that as a result of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan, and the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, a truly historic step has been taken on the path toward disarmament and delivering mankind from the threat of nuclear self-destruction.

The whole world welcomes the victory of political will and the spirit of cooperation displayed by the two great powers of the present time. At the same time the peoples are expressing the hope that this important political act will be followed up with new radical steps toward the destruction of nuclear weapons.

For his part King Husayn noted the exceptional importance of the Soviet-American summit, which contributed to a general improvement of the international climate. It will result in a growth of confidence between states and open up new prospects for the solution of burning problems of the present time. He highly appraised the large-scale Soviet initiatives and declared that they have the full support of the government and the people of Jordan.

Both sides expressed confidence that the results of the Soviet-American meeting in Washington will open up new horizons for cooperation between all countries, big and small. A.A. Gromyko went on to emphasize that the USSR and the socialist countries have drawn up proposals for a comprehensive system of international security. The essence of these proposals consists in that such a system must be created only on the firm basis of a carefully worked out balance of the interests of all the world's states rather than by means of military rivalry. We will not stray from this path in our foreign policy, A.A. Gromyko said. People in the Arab east may be confident of this.

Both sides were unanimous that the edifice of peace cannot be regarded as strong while regional conflicts continue to blaze or smolder. One of the most dangerous of these conflicts is the Near East conflict, which the participants in the talks will be discussing later.

The king of Jordan declared that the Soviet Union is playing an important role in the cause of ridding mankind of the horror of nuclear war. He rated highly the Soviet Union's unshakable stance in defense of the loftiest principles and values, which are treasured by all the world's people.

The flashpoints on the planet also present a threat to all mankind. If it proved possible to extinguish them, this would help to strengthen world peace, the Jordanian head of state emphasized.

The king of Jordan briefed the Soviet side on the course of the discussion of Near East problems and ending the Iran-Iraq war at the Conference of Arab Heads of State in Amman and the documents adopted there.

The talks will be continued.

Gorbachev Meets With Husayn

*PM231200 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 87
Second Edition pp 1,2*

[TASS Report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Meeting With King Husayn"]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev met King Husayn of Jordan in the Kremlin today. There was a substantive exchange of views, in a spirit of openness [otkrytost] and mutual understanding, on matters of Soviet-Jordanian relations and topical international problems.

Welcoming the guest, Comrade Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union values its relations with Jordan, and gives credit to the efforts of King Husayn for developing cooperation between the two countries. Soviet-Jordanian ties are developing successfully in various directions. King Husayn said that Jordan is proud of its relations with the USSR, which are based on mutual understanding, trust, and the partners' confidence in each other. He emphasized that the processes taking place in the USSR are creating immense interest in the Arab and nonaligned countries. Great hopes for an improvement in the international situation and a better future for all mankind are linked to Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

In this connection, the head of the Jordanian state gave a high appraisal to the Soviet-U.S. accords reached in Washington and expressed hope that they will have a positive effect on settling regional conflicts, which present a serious potential threat to peace and security. The Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said, is firmly committed to doing all it can to promote the normalization of the world situation and to put international relations on the road to constructive cooperation.

At the Washington summit meeting the Soviet Union was persistent in inviting the United States to cooperate with all interested parties with the aim of unblocking the

conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Central America, and other regions. It was also emphasized that in these regions the search for settlements through political means and on the basis of the legitimate interests of all sides is going on ever more actively.

An in-depth exchange of opinions took place on all aspects of the situation in the Near East, on ways of settling the Arab-Israel conflict. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and King Husayn were at one in saying that there is only one way to achieve a comprehensive and just Near East settlement: the convocation of a plenipotentiary international conference. Only thus, by collective efforts and on the basis of honest interaction, can the interests of the Arabs, including the Palestinians, Israel, and other states be reduced to a common denominator. It was emphasized that in all circumstances the Palestinian factor is the key element to a Near East settlement, and that without the PLO it cannot be ensured.

The chief thing now, said Comrade Gorbachev, is to set in motion the mechanism of an international conference and to start practical talks. The number of supporters of such an approach is growing. Even so, no real progress is visible. This is a result of the absence of a constructive attitude in the standpoints of the United States and Israel, and of their attempts to push through their own methods of settlement. We tell both the Americans and the Israelis clearly that this is not a realistic approach. This line goes against the interests not just of the Arabs, but of Israelis too.

An international conference, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev emphasized, must not be a cover for separate accords. Attempts to pursue separate deals have led to nothing; and this means that all sides, including the PLO participate collectively in working out a just and comprehensive settlement in the Near East, including the Palestinian problem. This must be done on both a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The outcome of this work should be solutions that take into account the legitimate interests of all concerned parties. The search is heading in the right direction, but the process must be stepped up.

That is the approach of the Soviet Union to this forum. It sensibly combines a principled approach, flexibility and realism, and a readiness to take account of very different points of view. The Soviet Union intends to continue to work in a serious and responsible way with everyone who comes forward with a constructive contribution to solving the Near East conflict.

King Husayn spoke of the results of the conference of heads of Arab states that took place in November this year in Amman, noting that the idea of convening an international conference received the support of the

participants. In this connection note was made of the great importance of joint actions by the Arab states in the interests of a just solution of the Near East problem.

The interlocutors had a wide-ranging discussion of questions connected with the Iran-Iraq conflict and the situation in the Persian Gulf. They noted their joint understanding that the exacerbation of the situation in that region requires active and energetic actions. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed that the USSR is a resolute supporter of ending that war as rapidly as possible, and of settling disputed questions by political means while observing the legitimate interests of both Iraq and Iran. The USSR consistently pursues this line in its contacts with all sides.

The Soviet and Jordanian leaders noted that UN Security Council Resolution No 598 continues to remain a realistic basis for adopting effective steps towards peace. In connection with the absence of real progress in the negotiating process, King Husayn, citing the decisions of the Amman summit meeting, came out in favor of the Security Council's adoption of a resolution introducing an embargo on arms supplies to Iran as the side refusing to fulfill the Security Council's decision.

Comrade Gorbachev said that the USSR, while continuing to come out for the implementation of Resolution No 598, was not against the discussion of this question in the UN Security Council, but doubt arises as to whether those who are shouting louder than everyone else for an embargo and who, by the way, were found to be delivering arms secretly to Iran, are ready to observe it. This is of considerable importance. The USSR does not supply arms to Iran.

We, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev continued, consider it essential to make use of all means to end the war, including means envisaged by the UN Charter. Here, too, much will depend on the warring sides, themselves, on their readiness to conduct matters toward a genuine settlement on the basis of reasonable compromises. The USSR will provide assistance to this process in every way possible and will actively support collective efforts giving a stimulus to continue talks. The Soviet representative at the United Nations has been given clear and specific instructions on this matter.

In parallel with this, it is necessary to resolve the question of the normalization of the situation in the Persian Gulf. The situation there continues to worsen and threatens to turn into a serious international crisis. It is necessary to relieve the tension in the Gulf zone, and the sooner the better. The USSR considers that the formation of UN naval forces will allow an improvement in the political climate and a concentration of attention directly on the task of stopping the Iran-Iraq war as soon as possible. The Soviet proposals on this matter are

well-known, but we are also open to a serious discussion of any other constructive ideas. We call on our partners in the West for joint consideration and cooperation on this question.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the king of Jordan expressed mutual interest in continuing the Soviet-Jordanian political dialogue, and confirmed their desire to further expand and deepen relations between the two countries in various fields. King Husayn invited the CPSU Central Committee general secretary to pay an official visit to Jordan. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Amman Reports Soviet Comments

JN231334 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1205 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Last night, the Soviet Government issued a statement after the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The statement reads: The talks were held in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual understanding on Jordanian-Soviet relations and pressing international issues.

Gorbachev welcomed His Majesty King Husayn. He said that the USSR values relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and appreciates His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to promote cooperation between the two friendly countries in various areas.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that Jordan is proud of its relations with the USSR which are based on mutual understanding, trust, and confidence in each other. The king said that what is taking place in the USSR has evoked extreme interest in the Arab homeland and in the nonaligned countries. He highly praised the Soviet-American accord signed in Washington recently.

The Soviet statement says that King Husayn and Gorbachev discussed the situation in the Middle East from all aspects and ways to reach a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two leaders affirmed that the only solution for finding a comprehensive, just, and permanent settlement in the region is through convening an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. They also affirmed that the Palestinian issue is the essence of the conflict in the region. The mechanism for the international conference, supported by most of the world countries, must be activated. No real progress can be achieved in this respect as long as Israeli intransigence continues.

The Soviet leader said his country will continue to cooperation in an earnest and responsible way with all those who want to contribute to finding a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

The statement notes that His Majesty King Husayn briefed the Soviet leader on the results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman on 8 November. He said that the idea of convening an international conference is supported by the Arab leaders to reach a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue.

The statement adds that the two leaders discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arabian Gulf. Gorbachev affirmed that his country stresses the need to end this war and to settle the disputable issues by political means with the observance of legitimate interests of the two parties. The two leaders agreed that the real basis to embark on effective steps toward resolving this conflict remains in implementing Security Council Resolution No. 598. Referring to the Amman summit resolutions, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his support for a decision to be taken by the Security Council to embargo arms supplies to Iran, as the side which refuses to implement the Security Council resolution.

Gorbachev affirmed that the USSR, while continuing to call for the implementation of Resolution No 598, does not oppose discussing this issue at the Security Council. He said: We deem it necessary to use every means for ending the war, including those stipulated by the UN Charter.

The two leaders affirmed their endeavor to expand and deepen relations between Jordan and the USSR in various fields.

His Majesty King Husayn invited Gorbachev to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Gorbachev accepted the invitation gratefully provided that the date will be fixed later.

Husayn Visits Lenin's Tomb

*JN221318 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] On the second day of an official visit to the USSR His Majesty King Husayn this morning held talks at the Kremlin with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The talks dealt with the united Arab position emerging from the Amman summit, and the need to end the Iraq-Iran war through combined international efforts toward enforcing UN Security Council Resolution 598. The talks also took up the pressing need to find a solution to the mideast problem through a UN-sponsored international conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, plus all the parties to the dispute.

His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur and the Jordanian delegation, this morning visited the tomb of Lenin, where he laid a floral wreath. His majesty also visited the tomb of the unknown

soldier, where he placed a floral wreath amid full military ceremonies. A band played the Jordanian and Soviet national anthems. His Majesty reviewed a guard of honor.

Shevardnadze, Al-Masri Confer

*LD221754 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1635 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of Foreign Affairs, met today with Tahir Masri, Jordanian minister of foreign affairs, who is accompanying King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan on his official visit to the Soviet Union.

In the course of the conversation an in-depth exchange of views was conducted on the key problems of the world situation; particular attention was focused on the matter of unblocking regional conflict situations.

When examining the situation in the Near East the sides reaffirmed the resolve to strive persistently for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in this region. It was noted that the quest for a settlement must be conducted within the framework of an authoritative international conference with the equal participation of all interested sides, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The format of the conference presupposes the most varied forms of interaction between its participants: plenary sessions and bi-lateral and multilateral talks and meetings. Eduard Shevardnadze and Tahir al-Masri noted that the main task now is the transfer to the practical preparations for the conference and for setting in motion the mechanism of negotiations.

The sides expressed serious anxiety over the situation that has developed in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. They resolutely condemned the tyranny and violence perpetrated by Tel Aviv against peaceful civilians, and expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to implement their legal rights.

A firm conviction was expressed that the only path to the speediest possible cessation of the Iran-Iraq war lies in a settlement through political means in the spirit of realism and on the basis of taking into account the legitimate interests of the two sides.

Having stressed the need to put an end as soon as possible to the bloodshed between Iran and Iraq, the ministers spoke in favor of working out within the framework of the United Nations further steps promoting the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, which represents a political basis for the settlement of the conflict.

Eduard Shevardnadze drew the attention of the Jordanian side to the constructive proposals advanced by the Soviet Union aimed at easing tension in the Persian Gulf and withdrawing foreign navies from and setting up UN naval forces in the Gulf.

During the course of an exchange of opinions on the Afghan problem, both sides spoke out in favor of the need for the speediest settlement on the basis of national reconciliation and without external interference.

The participants in the conversation called for a deepening of cooperation in international affairs and a broadening of the practice of bilateral political consultations on the more acute problems of the present day.

During the course of the conversation an understanding was reached to hold in the near future an exchange of the notes that comprise an agreement between the USSR and Jordan on simplifying visa formalities regarding trips undertaken by the citizens of the two states.

Satisfaction was expressed by both sides with the exchange of views held in a friendly, working atmosphere. [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 22 December adds:

"The meeting was attended by Jordanian Ambassador in Moscow Falih al-Tawil; Mr Polyakov, head of the Near Eastern and North African Administration in the USSR Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet ambassador to Jordan."]

Cooperation Plan Signed

*LD231228 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT
23 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian minister of Foreign Affairs, signed a plan for cultural and scientific cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for 1988-1989 in the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

The document envisages further development of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, art, science, education, cinematography, television, broadcasting, health care, sports, and the training of national personnel.

The ceremony was attended on the Soviet side by Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Talyzin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers

of the USSR, Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of defence of the USSR, and other participants in the Soviet-Jordanian talks.

King Husayn Ibn Talal of Jordan, Prince Abdallah Ben Husayn, Prime Minister Sayd al-Rifa'i, Marwan Kasim, senior counsellor to the king, Field Marshal Zayd Ben Shakir, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and other Jordanian officials were present in the hall.

Husayn Receives Foreign Envoys

*JN221811 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received at the special wing in the Kremlin Palace this evening the chiefs of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Soviet Union and their wives. The chiefs of the diplomatic missions expressed pleasure at meeting with his majesty and wished him success in his Arab and international endeavors and in implementing the positive resolutions of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit.

Gromyko, Husayn Attend Ballet

*LD222138 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Husayn Ibn Talal, the king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Queen Nur watched the Gavrilin ballet Anyuta at the USSR Bolshoi Theater. Comrade Gromyko and his wife and other officials were with the guests in the main box, which was decorated with the state flags of Jordan and the Soviet Union. Before the performance began, the orchestra played the national anthems of both countries.

Husayn, Gromyko Resume Talks

*JN231233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow—The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Soviet side led by Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, resumed their official talks at the Kremlin this morning. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Commander in Chief General Zayd ibn Shakir, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Jordanian Ambassador in Moscow Falih al-Tawil. They were attended on the Soviet side by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Defense Minister Yazov, a number of senior officials, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Ryzhkov, Al-Rifa'i Hold Talks

PM231454 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 87
Second Edition p 2

[TASS Report: "Talk in the Kremlin"]

Moscow December 22 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today met with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i who is accompanying King Husayn ibn Talal on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In discussing international problems, the sides expressed confidence that practical steps on arms control and disarmament were a necessary condition for preserving peace and for the successful solution of acute economic and social problems facing mankind.

It was observed in this connection that the conclusion of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of their Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles was an historic step along the road towards ending the nuclear arms race and towards disarmament.

Al-Rifa'i highly assessed the Soviet peace initiatives directed at averting nuclear catastrophe and strengthening peace and international security.

In considering bilateral relations, the sides expressed satisfaction with their overall state and noted reciprocal interest in the further development of trade and economic cooperation, especially by way of using new forms of economic ties.

Ryzhkov described profound changes currently under way in the Soviet Union in all spheres of life of society—political, social economic and spiritual, and the radical reform of economic management.

In discussing the situation in the Middle East, the heads of the two governments expressed the conviction that the search for a fair comprehensive Middle East settlement, including that of the Palestinian problem, should be conducted within the framework of a competent international conference under the U.N. auspices with the participation of all sides directly concerned and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The sides were unanimous about the need for the earliest cessation of the Iran-Iraq war by peaceful, political means. This effort should be facilitated by all countries which were sincerely striving towards lasting peace in the region.

The conversation was constructive in character and passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. Taking part were: On the Soviet side—D. T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; V. M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; B. I.

Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade; A. G. Kovalev, USSR first deputy foreign minister; A. I. Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and A. I. Zinchuk, USSR ambassador to Jordan; on the Jordanian side—Marwan al-Qasim, senior adviser to the king; Field Marshal Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Fali al-Tawil, Jordanian ambassador to the USSR; Divisional General Muhammad Taysir Za'rur, deputy chief of general staff; and Divisional General Ihsan Shurdhum, commander of the Air Force.

Yazov, Al-Sharif Hold Talks

JN221743 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A meeting was held at the Soviet Defense Ministry today between Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Yazov. They discussed aspects of military cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Joint military committees were formed and held their first meeting today. The meeting was attended by the members of the Jordanian military delegation and Marshal Yazov's senior aides.

Husayn Holds Press Conference

LD231331 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT
23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expressed full satisfaction with the results of his visit to the Soviet Union and with the talks which were notable for coincidence of opinions and viewpoints of the Soviet Union and Jordan on a wide range of matters discussed.

He spoke at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists today.

The talks, he said, were held in an atmosphere of frank discussion of problems of mutual interest. "We sincerely and ardently welcome the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting.

An important step has been made in the cause of curbing the nuclear arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons which pose a threat to the whole of mankind", the king of Jordan said.

He voiced hope that the Soviet-U.S. meeting would contribute to the Mid-East settlement process, and called for multiplying efforts to prepare the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel.

The current developments in the Israel-occupied territories indicate, the king of Jordan pointed out, that a solution to the Middle-East problem brooks no delay.

King Husayn expressed concern over the growth of tension in the Persian Gulf area in view of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war. The war and the concentration of foreign naval forces in the region pose a serious threat to the cause of peace throughout the world.

He called for urgent consultations between members of the U.N. Security Council to ensure guarantees for the implementation of resolution 598 of the U.N. Security Council.

Bilateral contacts were thoroughly discussed during the talks in the USSR, the Jordanian monarch pointed out, he voiced confidence that relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union would continue to develop successfully in an atmosphere of further strengthening of Soviet-Arab friendship.

Seen Off by Gromyko, Others

*LD231340 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT
23 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left the USSR today.

He stayed in Moscow since Monday on a brief official visit at the invitation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government.

At the airport, the Jordanian head of state and Queen Nur were seen off by Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, with his wife, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and other officials.

Moscow on Operation Against DRA 'Extremists'

*LD231519 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0530 GMT 23 Dec 87*

[Report by Aleksandr Shkerando, correspondent in Kabul; recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] At the moment, reports reaching us from the southeast of Afghanistan bear witness to the fact that a tense situation has evolved there. In accordance with a decision by the National Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Afghanistan, a major military operation against the counterrevolutionaries is being carried out in the area of Khowst—perhaps you remember the recent reportages in "Vremya." Listen to a report by Aleksandr Shkerando, our correspondent in Kabul. Over to the tape recording:

[Shkerando] The situation is still quite complex. The Afghan extremists, headed by their ringleader, Jalalluddin, are doing their damndest to retain in their hands the entire area populated by the Zadran tribe, where they have created a stronghold of counterrevolution over the past 9 years. The important Gardeyz-Khowst road is also in their hands. By retaining the road they have completely blocked off the district of Khowst, where 40,000 people live. Over the past few years, all aid to the residents of Khowst has been delivered by air, but when the counterrevolutionaries got "Stingers" and "Blowpipes," even that form of transport proved to be unreliable.

In order to open the Gardyez-Khowst road and save the population of the Khowst district from starvation, the decision was made to carry out a military operation. This measure was forced, because all peaceful proposals of the Afghan Government had been rejected by the Jalalluddin gang.

The beginning of this operation coincided with the holding of the Loya Jirgah in Kabul. One of its participants suggested suspending the operation for a few days in order to hold an assembly of peace with the rebels. Despite the fact that hostilities were already in progress in the (Zadran) area—incidentally, the Jalalluddin gang started backing off toward Pakistani territory—the operation was suspended because a proposal for the Loya Jirgah is a law. However, the counterrevolutionaries, instead of embarking on talks with representatives of the people's power, intensified the shelling of army garrisons and civilian targets. Thus, for instance, from 1-18 December they fired 160 missiles, most of which hit the Khowst district airfield. Following that, the decision was made to eliminate the blockade of Khowst by military means.

[Unidentified questioner] Aleksandr, as is known, Pashto tribes live in that area. They have customs and traditions, in accordance with which all issues are resolved by holding an assembly. Why is their role not conspicuous in this case?

[Shkerando] Over several years, the Afghan extremists have forcefully achieved full control of the local population and imposed monetary and food taxes on it. Apart from that, beasts of burden and warm clothing are taken away from the residents of the (Zadran) subprovince. On the other hand, one should keep in mind that (Zadran) and Khowst border with Pakistan, where the ringleaders of the alliance of seven [as heard] have rooted themselves. It is they who exercise direct leadership over the counterrevolution's activities on the territory of Afghanistan. Thus, for instance, Yunis Khalis, the present leader of this alliance, said at a conference of (?gang) leaders in the Pakistani town of Miram Shah on 7 December that he would not permit any negotiations

with representatives of the state authority on settling the situation in the (Zadran) subprovince. Leaders engaging in such negotiations on behalf of the rebels were to be physically eliminated.

Also, as I was told at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the Afghan territory, and more precisely, in the regions of (Srna), Sperah, and (Wilouk) 36 foreign advisers are operating with the bandit gangs, including 5 Americans and 4 Frenchmen. Here you have a small-scale but specific example of the open interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. As far as Khowst is concerned, as (Sheikh Mohammad Bawar) first deputy chief of the DRA Main Political Directorate of the Armed Forces said to me, the blockade of Khowst would be lifted in a few days time, at any price, and its population would receive necessities delivered by a convoy of peace.

[Announcer] One can say with all certainty that the sensitive situation in the area of Khowst would not exist, and the national reconciliation program would also have yielded significantly greater results if the interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan from outside was stopped.

Libyan 'Representative' Talks With Journalists

Rejects U.S. 'Terrorism' Claims

LD221622 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—A Libyan representative today rejected all the claims advanced by the Washington administration in taking a decision on extending economic sanctions against his country.

Muhammad Husni Sha'ban, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah in the USSR, addressing Soviet and Arab Journalists, emphasized that the White House's discriminatory decision adopted under the pretext that Libya was allegedly engaged in terrorism and posed a threat to U.S. security, had no ground whatsoever from the viewpoint of international law and was a glaring violation of the U.N Charter.

Pointing to the absurdity of charges of terrorism levelled against Libya, the Libyan representative drew attention to the fact that the U.S. Administration had failed to provide a single piece of evidence of Libya's involvement in terrorist activity.

By extending economic sanctions against Libya, he said, the U.S. acted once again as international gendarme punishing peoples which refused to follow in the wake of U.S. policy and yield to its diktat.

Libya was being subjected to aggressive attacks because its people chose to live freely on their land and rejected the attempts to impose domination over them. "The

Libyan people want to live in peace and security, develop their country, eliminate backwardness and secure conditions for the life of succeeding generations.

It is hard to believe that all that may pose a threat to U.S. security," he added.

Washington's anti-Libyan sanctions, said the Libyan representative, showed that it was pursuing a policy at the expense of other peoples' rights and placing small countries and peoples into the sphere of its imperial ambitions.

"The American Administration wants to intimidate other peoples on the example of Libya and compel them to put up with its diktat."

Promises Aid for Palestinians

LD221758 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 22 (TASS)—[Words indistinct] Libya will be doing its utmost to assist the Palestinian people's struggle for ridding Arab territories of Israeli occupiers", secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah Muhammad Husni Sha'ban said here today, speaking at a news conference for Soviet and Arab journalists.

"We reject the U.S. hypocritical accusations of terrorism made against Palestinians", the Libyan representative said in answer to a question from a TASS correspondent. "Israeli Zionists now perpetrate real terrorism in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank of the River Jordan with the consent of their 'strategic ally', the United States".

"Israeli terror on occupied territories is a direct consequence of the seizure of Palestinian lands with the assistance of U.S. and British imperialism. The Palestinian people has been deprived of its native land, of the opportunity to decide its own destiny. No Israeli reprisals can suppress the Palestinian people's striving for freedom and national self-determination".

"A durable and just peace in the Middle East is possible only if the crucial Middle Eastern problem, the Palestinian problem, is solved. Any political solution in this area should envisage a return of Palestinian lands to their lawful owners", Muhammad Husni Sha'ban said.

Commentary on U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan

BK210531 Moscow in Hindi to India 1400 GMT
18 Dec 87

[Andrei Viktorov commentary]

[Text] Tension at the India-Pakistan border has risen considerably in recent days. There have been the whizzing sounds of gunshots in the (Nagial Dara) and (Sokar)

sectors at the boundary line of Jammu and Kashmir and the so-called Azad Kashmir [Pakistan-held Kashmir]. Indian newspapers link this increase in tension with the U.S. Congress decision to resume military-economic assistance to Pakistan. The question arises as to why assistance should have a bearing on the foreign policy of the recipient country. But the nature of the assistance, on which a great deal depends, should be taken into consideration.

Let us consider the last U.S.-Pakistan military-economic assistance package, which was worth more than \$3 billion. Pakistan received very sophisticated U.S. weapons including M-1 tanks, F-16 aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons, anti-aircraft rockets, and heavy [name indistinct] artillery guns. None of these weapons are defensive and it is not necessary to be a military expert to understand this fact. Pakistan has been given U.S. weaponry far in excess of its logical defense requirements.

The U.S. Congress has now approved another military-economic assistance package worth more than \$4 billion. As before, most of it will be utilized to equip the Pakistan Army of over a half million troops with sophisticated weaponry. It will be given additional aircraft, tanks, rockets, and naval ships. Part of the U.S. assistance will be spent on a U.S. military technical training program. The U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency says that the U.S. assists Pakistan in the development of its defense industry and that during the next 5-6 years, this assistance will play a significant role in the growth of arms production in Pakistan. It is said that the United States takes much more interest than Pakistan in the U.S.-Pakistan military cooperation. This is an established fact now.

Before deciding to resume U.S. assistance to Pakistan, the U.S. Congress hotly debated Pakistan's nuclear program, during which the U.S. Congress was given concrete proof of the military nature of this program. According to U.S. laws assistance cannot be given to countries making nuclear weapons. But even then the United States decided to extend assistance to Pakistan. Why did this happen? The answer to this question lies in Pakistan's role in U.S. plans in this region. Pakistan President Ziaul Haq in an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES said that President Reagan fully understands that Pakistan is its valuable ally and, in fact, in return for U.S. assistance Pakistan allowed the United States to use its harbors and airports and its territory to set up military bases. The former chairman of the Pakistani joint chiefs of staff committee, General Rahimuddin Khan, admitted that some new airports are being built and old airports modernized at Jiwani, Pasni, Gwadar and other areas on the Makran coast. These are reserved for U.S. Rapid Deployment Force operations in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

Pakistan's role in the undeclared war against Afghanistan should also be considered. In return for U.S. assistance, Pakistan has become a conduit for the supply of

U.S. weapons to Afghan revolutionaries and a base for aggression against Afghanistan. It is also no secret that most of the U.S. weapons given to Pakistan are stationed near the border with neighboring India. According to Indian newspaper reports, Pakistan has used F-16 aircraft in recent border confrontations. The U.S. weapons also go from Pakistan to India, where various terrorist and separatist groups use them.

India is in favor of solving all disputes with Pakistan through peaceful means on the basis of the Simla agreement. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 14-point plan has been presented with a view to normalizing relations with Pakistan. The plan includes various issues from the peace and friendship treaty proposal to development of general humanitarian ties. This week's scheduled India-Pakistan high-level talks evoke great expectations. This meeting will prepare ground for the scheduled meeting of the India-Pakistan joint committee in the last part of January.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Special Envoy Meets With Angolan President

LD221422 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1200 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Meetings of Soviet representatives with leading figures of foreign countries continue, during which an exchange of opinion takes place with regard to the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting.

Dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola Workers' Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, had a conversation with Ustinov, ambassador at large. Dos Santos noted that, according to the opinion of the Angolan leadership, an important step toward detente was achieved at the Washington summit meeting.

The president underscored that in the struggle for the creation of a nuclear-free and more secure world, the Soviet Union can count on the complete support of the People's Republic of Angola.

Private Enterprises in Angola on Increase

LD191405 Moscow in Portuguese to Africa
1830 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola [PRA] celebrated the 10th anniversary of the establishment on the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Labor party on 10 December. Ten years is a considerable length of time, and the party is approaching this date as a new stage in the life of the PRA. Among the many initiatives planned is the economic and financial reconstruction plan. This program envisages increasing the number of private enterprises that are not part of the key areas of the national economy.

Our correspondent, Yelena Olgina, met with a representative of one of these firms at the Luanda International Fair last November. Manuel Dinis is an employee at a small factory manufacturing plastic bags—trivial, although necessary, items that make life more comfortable and that are, for the time being, in short supply here in Luanda. [passage indistinct: Dinis interviewed on work of factory, including information on number of employees and ratio of production workers to administrators, and noting that products are sold to individuals and organizations]

U.S., Rebels Exploiting Ethiopian Drought

PM221355 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
16 Dec 87 Second Edition p 3

[Captain 2d Class V. Kocherov article under the "Relevant Notes" rubric: "Who Pays?"]

[Text] After the severe drought in Ethiopia in 1985, it seemed incredible that anything like it could happen again. Alas, once more the country seems threatened by natural disaster—although not on the same scale as 2 years ago. The teleprinters are again distributing alarming news around the world from Addis Ababa. Drought. There is already a food shortage in Ertra, Welo, Tigray, and Harerge Provinces.

Just like 2 years ago, the drought is accompanied by increased activity by the counterrevolutionary forces. According to a REUTER report, separatist attacks have become particularly intensive in Tigray and Ertra Provinces in recent months. The counterrevolutionary military formations are fighting government troops and attacking the truck convoys carrying food supplies.

Last month, for example, there were attacks on 23 trucks carrying food that could have fed thousands of starving people. The load was destroyed by the separatists. This was done, on the one hand, to undermine the Ethiopians' belief in the revolution's potential and to create doubts in the correctness of the country's chosen path of development and, if successful, to try to turn it back from that path. The separatists' other aim was to make it easier to maintain the obedience of their own half-starved military formations.

By themselves, the separatists would hardly represent a serious danger were it not for foreign help, especially from the United States, which has long been opposed to the course of the people's democratic state and which is prepared to use any methods to support antipeople's regimes and forces.

For example, at the beginning of August, shortly before Ethiopia was proclaimed a people's democratic republic, the U.S.-Somali maneuvers "Bright Star-87" were held on the territory of neighboring Somalia. The choice of Somalia as the location of the maneuvers was no coincidence at all. For several years now, Ethiopia has been

conducting talks on normalizing relations with its eastern neighbor. The artillery fire reaching Ethiopia from the Somali coast in the first week of August was not conducive to a favorable outcome of those talks.

An equally familiar method in America's dealings with the developing states is that of economic pressure. Just 5 days after the proclamation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, William Gray, chairman of the House Budget Committee, and Congressman Toby Roth submitted for the House's scrutiny a bill providing for the imposition of economic sanctions on Ethiopia: the cessation of U.S. imports of Ethiopian coffee, a ban on loans and credits to Ethiopia, and the removal of its most-favored-nation status in trade. The noose of economic sanctions was to be tightened around Ethiopia at the very time that the CIA, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, began to allocate resources for subversive activity against that sovereign state.

Is it not those resources that are being used this time? And with just one aim, of course—to do what could not be done in 1985. But the republic's people have no intention of turning back from their chosen path, as is demonstrated by the results of the National Assembly elections held on the eve of the adoption of the Constitution. Ethiopia's Army, Air Force, and Navy are ready for action. And, finally, the republic has loyal and reliable friends whose internationalist support has been felt by Ethiopia on all fronts of the struggle and at all times, even the most difficult, as Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, noted recently.

Agriculture Agreement Signed With Ethiopia

LD200351 Moscow in French to Africa
1900 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Summary from poor reception] A treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Ethiopia was signed in Moscow on (?20) November. Among the topics dealt with are agriculture and energy. Yuriy Kabatov, of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, gives the following information:

[Begin Kabatov recording, in Russian with superimposed French translation] The development of agriculture is a priority for the government. One Soviet-Ethiopian project involves setting up an irrigation system in the Gambela area to irrigate 10,000 hectares. A dam in the area of (Telmotko) is to bring into use (?60,000) hectares.

Peasant production cooperatives and state farms are in need of modern technology, and there has been a problem with servicing this equipment, which has now been solved. It is planned to open five truck and tractor stations. A pathology laboratory is to be given to the people of Ethiopia, set up in the town of (Ombo).

The hydroelectric power station in Melkawakana is in its final stage of construction. The power unit should come into use next March. (?The country aims) not only to be agriculturally self-sufficient, but also to export agricultural produce. [end recording]

Delegation Received by Malagasy Party Leader

PM181521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
16 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Reception of Soviet Delegation"]

[Text] Antananarivo, 15 Dec—A CPSU delegation headed by T.G. Ivanova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is in the Democratic Republic of Madagascar at the invitation of the Congress Party for Malagasy Independence [AKFM] Central Committee, was received here today by Gisele Rabesahala, AKFM secretary general.

The AKFM and all our country's democratic forces highly rate the signing by the USSR and the United States of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, Gisele Rabesahala stated. The meeting in Washington is the first important step toward nuclear disarmament, she stressed.

Retiring Ambassador to Mali Replaced

PM231151 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 87
Second Edition p 6

[Unattributed "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Trofimov USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Mali.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has released Comrade Yevgeniy Viktorovich Nersesov from his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Mali in connection with his retirement on pension.

East Europe

Shevardnadze Meets CSSR Envoy Rehorek

LD221937 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze today received CSSR Ambassador Comrade Rehorek at his request. The ambassador briefed Shevardnadze on the results of the CPCZ Central Committee December 1987 Plenum, at which important decisions were adopted on the consistent implementation of the course of the 17th CPCZ

Congress to speed up social and economic development in the country and for integral restructuring and the deepening of socialist democracy.

An exchange of opinions took place on issues of further deepening Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical, and other fields. Topical international problems were discussed. Comrade Rehorek pointed out the great significance of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on the elimination of two types of nuclear weapons, and stressed the USSR's special contribution to achieving this historic agreement.

The conversation took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and full mutual understanding.

SFRY Decision To Halt Kosovo Emigration Noted

PM231135 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Federal Chamber Decision"]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Dec—The SFRY Federal Assembly Federal Chamber has adopted an all-Yugoslav program to halt emigration from the Autonomous Province of Kosovo by Serbian and Montenegrin nationals, rapidly return those who have left the province there, and settle in Kosovo all those who wish to live and work there.

At the 2-day session of the Federal Chamber that has opened, it was pointed out that the execution of this program will promote the rapid economic and cultural development and the stabilization of the political situation and security in the province.

The program includes a complex of measures in which it is planned to involve the organs of power, public organizations of all levels (from communities to federations), and also labor collectives.

The SFRY Federal Assembly Federal Chamber instructed the government to implement the tasks arising from the adopted program. Republic and autonomous province federal assemblies were recommended to adopt their own plans to implement the all-Yugoslav program.

Joint GDR Commission Meeting Held in Berlin

LD212357 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1650 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Berlin, 21 Dec (TASS)—A meeting of the joint Soviet-German commission was held here today. Vyacheslav Kochemasov, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, chaired the meeting. The GDR side was led by Herbert Krolikowski, state secretary and first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the GDR.

The session, which passed in an atmosphere of complete unity of views and in a spirit of fraternal friendship and close cooperation between the USSR and the GDR, discussed issues of mutual interest. The relevant decisions on these issues were made.

Hungarian Governmental Changes Reported

PM221445 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
17 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Important Decisions Made"]

[Text] Budapest, 16 Dec—A Hungarian National Assembly session opened here today. MSZMP General Secretary J. Kadar and other Hungarian party and state leaders are participating in its work.

K. Grosz, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, made an announcement at the session on tasks in the sphere of improving the government's activity. The deputies adopted a law on the structure of government bodies. In accordance with it, three new ministries were set up—trade, environmental protection and water resources, and social security and health. At the same time, the Ministries of Foreign and Domestic Trade were abolished. F. Berecz, L. Marothy, I. Horvath, and J. Csehak were relieved of their posts as deputy chairmen of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. F. Berecz was appointed minister of industry; L. Marothy was appointed minister of environmental protection and water resources; I. Horvath was appointed minister of the interior; J. Csehak was appointed minister of social security and health; and J. Marjai was appointed minister of trade. P. Medgyessy, who had been minister of finance, was appointed deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. Decisions were made on other cadre movements.

The National Assembly deputies will discuss the state budget for next year, will hear a report by the chairman of the State Office for Church Affairs, and will examine a number of other matters.

Ceausescu, Genscher Welcome INF Treaty

PM231137 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 87
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting in Bucharest"]

[Text] Bucharest, 17 Dec—Today, a meeting took place here between N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of Romania, and H.-D. Genscher, FRG deputy federal chancellor and foreign minister, who is visiting Romania.

During the talks, a high assessment was made of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and its historic significance in the cause of strengthening peace was indicated. N. Ceausescu and H.-D. Genscher expressed confidence that the Soviet-U.S. agreement will be followed by new accords

on reducing nuclear weapons and conventional arms. The sides advocated maintaining peace in Europe with the smallest number of troops and arms and creating a climate of good-neighbornliness and cooperation on the continent.

RCP National Conference Resolution Reported

PM231204 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "RCP Conference Resolution"]

[Text] Bucharest, 18 Dec—Romania has all the conditions for fulfilling the country's socioeconomic development plans in the 1988-1990 period and for achieving the goals set by the 13th RCP Congress in the intensive development of industry and agriculture and other sectors of the economy. This is stressed in the resolution of the RCP National Conference held 14-16 December of this year, published here today.

The document notes the need to further improve output quality and ensure the rational use of raw and other materials and the observance of energy consumption norms. The introduction of the experience of leading agriculture enterprises will make it possible to achieve a significant increase in yields of grain crops and livestock products. The resolution also points to the special importance of increasing responsibility and strengthening order and discipline.

The national conference stresses that for the fulfillment of the tasks set by the 13th RCP Congress, key significance is attached to developing international economic relations. Romania will participate widely in CEMA's work, the fulfillment of long-term agreements, and the improvement of the organization's activity, with a view to ensuring that production sharing and specialization promote the development of each of the CEMA countries.

The RCP national conference emphasizes the special importance of the signing by the USSR and the United States of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range missiles. It regards the conclusion of this treaty as an event of worldwide historic importance and the result of realistic thinking and stepping up the struggle of leading forces throughout the world for disarmament, a total end to nuclear tests, and final renunciation of the militarization of space.

Broadcast to Romania Comments on Perestroika

AU201551 Moscow in Romanian to Romania
1700 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Yuriy Belov commentary on "perestroika" in response to letters from Romanian listeners]

[Excerpts] The notion of "perestroika," that is, of "restructuring," defines the complex and comprehensive processes currently under way in our country and the

atmosphere of working out solutions for and renewing human activities in all fields. Dear friends, your letters—such as the letters from the Raditan family in Galati, from Comrades Elena Visan, in Calarasi, Marin Butusila in Benia, Timis County, and Irina (Sarpalus), in Cluj-Napoca, and from many other listeners—indicate that everything that happens in the USSR echoes loudly in your country, where there is a great interest in getting better acquainted with our efforts to implement the revolutionary measures established by the CPSU. In view of our listeners' wishes, we turned to Comrade Yuriy Belov, candidate in economic sciences, with the request to brief you about reforms under way in our country. Here is his commentary:

In the 70 years that have elapsed since the October Revolution, the Soviet Union has scored huge and incontestable successes in all spheres. [passage omitted] However, one should not ignore difficulties and contradictions that have indeed become apparent in society. At a certain stage in the country's development, the rate of progress began to slow down and certain problems remained unresolved, particularly in the national economy. The 27th CPSU Congress laid down the main orientations and guidelines to facilitate a speedy upward course of all Soviet life. The first steps have already been taken to implement the congress's decisions. Priority was given to the objective task of creating, on socialist bases, new and strong incentives for socioeconomic and scientific-technical progress, and efficiently blending planned management with individual and collective interests. [passage omitted]

One of the most important measures is the law on state enterprises, which will become effective as of the beginning of next year. This law can be considered as a foundation of the new system of national economic management. The enterprises will independently resolve planning problems and will establish direct contract links with partners, in order to secure necessary supplies and markets for their products, including abroad. Until now, the enterprises justified their failure to ensure a smooth production flow or secure necessary funds to modernize their production by invoking shortcomings of the system of planning from above. Now, the law grants them the right to independently resolve these problems, including the drafting of their own production schedules.

The old planning system did not sufficiently take into account the interests of consumers; occasionally, certain products would be missing from the market, while warehouses would be full of them. All this will have to change with the transition from administrative to economic management methods. The retail trade will play an ever more important role in the supply of raw and other materials and in the sale of finished products. The activity of enterprises will be linked to economic notions, such as prices, taxes, and so forth.

All this will be a serious test for productive collectives and their leaders. In order to pass this test, one should broadly develop democracy, because now attention will

not focus on the higher management echelons, but rather on the working people, who are exercising their right as true masters of enterprises. This is a new and principled approach, the essence of the restructuring of the economic mechanism.

Radio Recalls Soviet Support for Albania

*AU191652 Moscow in Albanian to Albania
1530 GMT 18 Dec 87*

[Unattributed commentary on occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Declaration of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on the Question of Albania's Independence]

[Excerpts] In order to correctly evaluate the significance of this document, issued by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, it is necessary to recall the bitter days of December 1942. This was a time when Nazi-occupied Europe was languishing under their heel. Italian and German troops were engaged in their African offensive. In those days, the Italian occupiers were ruling Albania as if they were in their own home. [passage omitted]

In those bitter days, the Soviet Union supported the Albanian people. The declaration of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs stressed that the Soviet Union, which views the virile liberation struggle of the Albanian people against the Italian occupiers with great sympathy, recognizes no claims of the Italian imperialists over Albanian territory, and wants to see Albania liberated from the yoke of the fascist invaders and determining its own independence. The declaration also pointed out that the question of Albania's future social order would be determined by the Albanian people themselves. [passage omitted]

Soviet-Albanian relations developed considerably following Albania's liberation from the Fascist occupiers. Cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal states gave the Albanian people the opportunity of mending the war wounds and to begin the construction of socialism. The foundations of the country's industrialization and of the further development of agriculture were laid. The material and cultural standards of the working people in Albania rose. [passage omitted]

As is known, however, relations between Albania and the Soviet Union deteriorated at the beginning of the sixties. The Soviet Union has declared more than once its readiness to normalize relations on the basis of respect for complete equality, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual benefit. The people in the Soviet Union have never considered the separation of two socialist countries to be a normal state of affairs. A movement toward each other's positions in seeking ways of establishing equal and mutually-beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and Albania would correspond with the interests of the two peoples, as well as the cause of peace and socialism.

West Europe

Ryzhkov 'Irritated' on Submarine Charges

LD231135 Stockholm International Service
in Swedish 1000 GGMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov is irritated by the report of the [Swedish] commander in chief of the Armed Forces on violations of Swedish territorial waters. In an interview carried in DAGENS NYHETER today, Ryzhkov says that if there is any proof of Soviet submarine violations, it must be presented officially. Ryzhkov, who is visiting Sweden in January, says that he can guarantee that no member of the Warsaw Pact has ever violated Swedish territory. The Soviet premier adds that it is an absurd idea that the Soviet Union, at a time when it is striving for good-neighborly relations, would work against this by violating Sweden's national integrity.

Morozov Denies Charges

PM171417 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER
in Swedish 11 Dec 87 p 5

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA commentator Colonel Vasily Morozov "Debate" article: "Christmas Greetings From the Soviet Union. Soviet Colonel Wishes Swedish Officers 'Happy Submarine Hunting'"]

[Text] The media campaign about alleged Soviet underwater activities in Swedish territorial waters has now been going on for 6 years. Recently its main thrust has been as follows: Violations are part of operational plans which the Soviet Union could implement in a possible crisis situation; a sabotage organization called Spetsnaz has been involved in all previous cases of alleged Soviet underwater activity; the Soviet military is violating Swedish neutrality intentionally and without any real fears; the Swedish authorities are failing to catch the foreign ("Soviet") submarines to avoid confrontation with the Soviet Union, but this could persuade the Soviet Union to escalate the violations.

Soviet leaders and military experts have repeatedly answered the unfounded attacks on the Soviet Union by certain of the Swedish mass media. It can only be stressed once and for all that all accusations against the Soviet Union are groundless. In the past, the Soviet Union has respected Swedish neutrality, and it also respects Swedish neutrality today. There have never been any intentional intrusions into Swedish territorial waters. The incident in 1981, when a Soviet submarine found itself in Swedish territorial waters as a result of a malfunction of its navigational instruments, is no reason at all for attributing to the Soviet Union "repeated and intentional violations" of Swedish waters.

As far as the alleged aggressive plans in the event of a crisis situation are concerned, it must be stated that the Soviet Union's military doctrine is defense-oriented and that the Soviet Union has absolutely no plans to invade

its neighbors. The stories of Soviet frogmen in Sweden's archipelagoes are merely ridiculous. As far as the Swedish military authorities' alleged unwillingness to catch the foreign submarines is concerned, there is one thing to be said: Please feel free, you are welcome to try to discover and catch "the intruders." People in the Soviet Union are not worried about their identification, since the Soviet Union is not involved in any form of underwater activity in Swedish waters.

Colloquium With FRG Views Division of Germany

PM221305 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Dec 87
Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Historic Chance"]

[Excerpts] Salzgitter, 16 Dec—The Soviet-U.S. summit, which became possible above all due to the new thinking and the Soviet leadership's peace initiatives, provides a historic chance for a radical improvement in relations between East and West, including between the USSR and the FRG. This thought was the theme of the speeches by participants in the Soviet-FRG colloquium which is continuing its work in the West German city of Salzgitter. [passage omitted]

The improvement in relations between the USSR and the United States also has a positive impact on the development of Soviet-FRG relations, which is following an upward curve, Helmut Schaefer, state minister in the FRG Foreign Ministry, said in his report at the colloquium. "The governments of our countries," he continued, "are trying to open a new page in the history of relations between them. This page is gradually being filled with specific content." H. Schaefer stressed that relations between the USSR and the FRG are in their turn of central importance for improving the situation throughout Europe.

In his report H. Schaefer touched, in particular, on the allegedly "unresolved German question," which, according to him, is supposedly generating "unnecessary misunderstandings and disagreements." He affirmed that the division of Germany and Europe constitutes an "abnormal situation" which the FRG Government is endeavoring to change.

The speeches by Soviet representatives who took part in the ensuing discussion indicated that the Western powers which after the war set course for the creation of a separate West German state bear the responsibility for the division of Germany. They pointed out that today there exist two German states—the GDR and the FRG—with different social and political systems, whose reality is acknowledged by international treaties. They have both learned the lesson of history and each can make its contribution to the affairs of Europe and the world.

Envoy Briefs Portuguese Leaders on INF Treaty
*LD222151 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1415 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] Lisbon, 22 Dec (TASS)—Igor Andropov, special representative of the Soviet leadership and ambassador at large, was received today by Mario Soares, president of the Portuguese Republic. During the meeting, the Portuguese head of state was briefed in detail on the results of the Washington negotiations between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan and on the Soviet appraisal of the results of this meeting.

At the end of the talk Soares welcomed the signing of the agreement on medium- and shorter-range missiles and expressed hope for progress in the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on other types of weapons.

Andropov also briefed Vitor Crespo, speaker of the Assembly of the Republic, and Pinheiro Joao de Deus, Portuguese minister of foreign affairs.

UK's Howe Meets Special Soviet Envoy
*LD222343 Moscow in English to Great Britain
and Ireland 2000 GMT 22 Dec 87*

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, has met in London with a Soviet special envoy Aleksey Obukhov to sum up the Soviet-U.S. summit. Mr Howe laid special emphasis on the treaty for scrapping Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles. He said the British Government shared the view of the Soviet side that the summit had failed to remove all the differences between the Soviet Union and the United States, but it's significant that the two sides are determined to continue a joint search for ways of settling outstanding difficult questions and promote cooperation and accord.

Mr Howe also said his country believed the impetus the Washington summit provided should not be lost. He underlined the importance of further work on a Soviet-U.S. treaty for cutting by half strategic offensive arms. In Geoffrey Howe's opinion, the mechanism of verification that has been coordinated with regard for the medium-range missiles scrapping treaty lays a good foundation for getting action on corresponding questions and in the context of strategic offensive arms.

Soviet Envoy Meets Holy See Secretary of State
*LD182207 Vatican City International Service in Polish
1515 GMT 18 Dec 87*

[Text] This morning the Soviet Ambassador [at Large] Oleg Grinevskiy came to the Vatican to meet with the secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli. This news was given in an oral statement by the director of the Press Bureau of the Holy See, Joachim Navarro Vaz. The Soviet diplomat was accompanied by the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Italy, Lunkov. In the course of the

meeting, which lasted an hour, Ambassador Grinevskiy informed Cardinal Casaroli about the talks in Washington and the problems associated therewith.

Stepping Up of UK-French Military Ties Seen
*PM221614 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87
Second Edition p 5*

["Commentator's Column" by Aleksandr Lyutyy: "Preparing 'Compensation'"]

[Text] London—Britain and France are planning to significantly extend their cooperation in the military sphere.

Decisions on this score were the chief result of talks held in London between British Defense Secretary G. Younger and his French colleague Andre Giraud. In particular, according to Younger, "significant progress" was achieved in discussing the question of the joint creation of an air-launched nuclear cruise missile, with which London would like to equip its Tornado fighter-bombers at the end of the next decade. The two countries' military experts were instructed to study comprehensively the potential for joint work in this sphere.

Let us recall that France already has in its armory a cruise missile with a comparatively short range—about 200 km. The possibility is now being examined of the two countries' creating a cruise missile with a range of about 500 km, which could be equipped with a nuclear warhead. The British Government notes that such plans are not a violation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-range Missiles, which does not affect air-launched nuclear systems. In formal terms, this may be so. But in essence, all the same, it looks like an attempt to bypass the treaty by means of so-called "compensatory measures," which could lead to a new round of the nuclear arms race in Europe.

According to British press reports, the two ministers also signed an agreement whereby Britain and France are drawing up plans for the "defense" of the future Channel Tunnel not only against "terrorists," but also against "possible attack by Soviet special-purpose forces." Moreover the question of using the tunnel, which it is proposed to build by 1993, to ship troops to the continent in the event of war has already been discussed actively. In view of the fact that on the British side the tunnel has not even begun to be built yet, the dragging in of the "Soviet threat" is perplexing, to say the least.

But even that is not all. According to the INDEPENDENT newspaper, the British Government has proposed that the United States significantly increase the number of F-111 and F-15E fighter-bombers stationed on British territory after the removal of cruise missiles from UK territory. In particular, it is proposed to station new squadrons of such planes at the Greenham Common base, where the American cruise missiles due for destruction are at present, and at the Alconbury base. It is

reported that F-15E aircraft could be equipped with the air-launched cruise missiles with conventional warheads, now being developed in the United States.

How should all this be assessed? Evidently at least some of the NATO allies would like to hamper the process of further arms reduction and normalization of the international situation.

French Plans for Nuclear Buildup Deplored

*PM221109 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian
No 49, 4-10 Dec 87 (Signed to Press 3 Dec 87) p 6*

[Article by PRAVDA political observer Yuriy Zhukov under the rubric "Polemical Notes": "Who Needs 'Pre-Strategic Weapons' and Why?"—boldface as published]

[Text] As the Soviet-American talks on the elimination of medium-range and operational-tactical missiles were nearing their successful conclusion, a debate on the theme of European security got under way in West Europe. This discussion is most vigorous, or rather, vociferous in France.

Some people are clearly trying to dramatize the situation, claiming that without the U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, Western Europe will be defenseless in the face of the mythical "Soviet threat." Back in the spring of this year French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond and Defense Minister Andre Giraud opposed elimination of these missiles. On 4 March at a session of the Council of Ministers, they again set out their negative stances. A. Giraud even described the "zero-option" as a "Munich deal."

It is true that this negative stand was not backed by the French Government. On 31 October, an official Foreign Ministry statement was circulated in Paris which said that the French leadership expresses the hope that the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and U.S. Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles would be signed at the summit on 7 December and that further steps on the road toward a 50% reduction of the two countries' strategic offensive arms would be taken. Nonetheless, the debate continues on how, in the face of the "Soviet threat," to "plug the gap" that will allegedly result from dismantling the ground-launched Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

Furthermore, this debate has been followed up with specific measures aimed at the further buildup of French nuclear arms. In West Europe attention has been drawn to the fact that France is sharply increasing its expenditure for these purposes. The West German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE wrote back in May that the 5-year plan for the arms buildup adopted by the French National Assembly makes provision for the expenditure to this end of the truly fantastic sum of Fr474 billion, one-third of which is allocated for development of the nuclear forces.

A few days ago, thanks to the votes of deputies representing right-wing forces, the National Assembly and the Senate approved the 1988 military budget, which makes provision for a 4.4% increase in expenditure against the current year. It will top Fr176 billion. Within this budget, more than Fr48 billion will be spent on modernizing the strategic nuclear forces and Fr11.6 billion on deploying new operational-tactical forces. A new missile, the C-4, is being built which, it is claimed in Paris, is in actual fact a kind of modification of the U.S. medium-range Pershing-2 missile. At the same time, deployment of the new "pre-strategic" Hades missiles with a range of 350 km is envisaged. Funds are also being allocated for other nuclear programs. At the same time, there is constant talk about creating chemical and neutron weapons.

Naturally, the question arises: Against whom do the French generals intend to use all these means of mass destruction, and where?

As is known, originally the French leaders claimed that all their nuclear weapons were intended exclusively for the defense of French territory and therefore had to be deployed there. However, subsequently, according to a report published 27 October in the well-informed newspaper LE MONDE, a number of secret agreements were concluded (in 1967, 1974, and 1978) changing this concept.

Under the new rules, the newspaper wrote, in the event of a conflict the French First Army and the tactical Air Force, which are equipped with "pre-strategic" nuclear arms and "based in France in normal conditions," will, "after receiving a corresponding order from the president, go into action outside the sphere where they are permanently stationed in peacetime in order to give support to the allies. In the course of this, they will use their pre-strategic nuclear means."

In their official statements, the French leaders frequently stress that they regard their "pre-strategic" and strategic means merely as "political" weapons designed to deter a "potential aggressor," frequently spelling out whom they have in mind... namely the USSR.

It is true that during his official visit to the FRG on 19-22 October, President F. Mitterrand of France declared openly in his Aachen City Hall speech that he does not believe in the aggressive intentions of the Soviet Union and furthermore approves of the "efforts made by the leader of that country." The president welcomed the progress achieved in the course of the preparations for the Soviet-American agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range and operational-tactical missiles and called on the USSR and the United States to go further and "tackle strategic arms and put an end to them." "Russians and Americans!," the president exclaimed, "take a few steps forward, France will follow suit. In fact, it will be necessary to give up nuclear weapons provided that human imagination can stretch to that."

This "provided that" did not sound at all promising, especially as 48 hours later F. Mitterrand found it necessary to express himself in favor of an "armed peace" built on "nuclear deterrence." Another 2 weeks later, the aforementioned decision was adopted by the National Assembly to allocate tens of billions of francs for the expedited development of nuclear arms.

Meanwhile, the discussion about the purpose of strategic nuclear arms continues in Paris. In particular, the question of the role of "pre-strategic" weapons is being discussed over and over again. In order to appease public opinion, it is frequently claimed that the intention is to use them only as a "warning signal" to the Soviet Union which allegedly could, without further ado, mount an attack on the West. However, here, despite the absurdity of this proposition, two serious questions have immediately cropped up. First, it was again stated in Bonn that the "pre-strategic" French missiles (the "Pluton" with a range of 120 km and the future "Hades" with a range of 350 km), even if used only as a "warning signal," would explode on German soil, to which people in the FRG object. Many people there are proposing a much more sensible option: To eliminate, immediately after the intermediate-range and operational-tactical missiles, also tactical missiles, which is what the "Pluton" and "Hades" missiles essentially are. Second, people in Paris who have not forgotten how to think for themselves have raised the following question right away: If these missiles are needed merely as some kind of "warning signal," why is it necessary to organize their mass production? However, as the newspaper LA CROIX wrote, the point is that "unlike the president, who is convinced that the hypothesis of a limited nuclear war in Europe is absurd, the minister of defense is convinced that it is necessary to secure the means of retaliation (?) in such a situation. Yet, in the opinion of Andre Giraud, strategic weapons are unreliable as a deterrent because they are too unwieldy."

In other words, what the French Ministry of Defense has in mind is by no means the use of the "pre-strategic" missiles as a "warning signal" in the manner of a harmless bang—although even such a missile can wipe a whole city from the face of the earth—but the tacit acceptance of the notorious NATO "flexible response strategy," which makes provision for an escalation in the use of nuclear weapons from tactical weapons right up to strategic weapons.

If we turn our backs on the deliberately complex formulations of the discussions in Paris and focus on the blunt everyday prose, we are immediately struck by the fact that concealed behind the verbiage are practical, and by no means harmless, actions.

We were reminded of this by the latest, 50th Franco-German summit which took place in Karlsruhe less than a month after the French president's official visit to the FRG.

As the news media in Bonn and Paris noted, no previous meeting of this kind was marked by such a desire for an arms buildup. The question of setting up a joint "defense council" was examined and an agreement on the joint development and production of a new antitank helicopter and antitank missiles was signed. And the French head of state announced at the final press conference that it is planned already in the near future to station four "joint" battalions of a combined Franco-West German military formation in the vicinity of the city of Boeblingen.

Some readers might shrug their shoulders—so what, four battalions. However, there is already talk in Paris that they must be provided with "nuclear cover." As is well-known, the FRG has no right to possess nuclear weapons. Yet the West German DDP Agency reported 14 November that "the French command has not ruled out the possibility (!) of equipping" this "combined" formation "with tactical nuclear weapons."

In this context, attention must be focused on the continuing debate in Paris on the question whether the time has not come to grant the FRG the right to decide the question of the use of French nuclear weapons which would be sited on West German territory. Let me just cite a recent article under the heading "Coded Messages" by Yves Kuo [name as published], an observer writing for the French magazine LE POINT, which read in part: Has the time not come to give some very serious thought, together with our West German and British allies, to the creation of a European intermediate deterrence echelon? West German Defense Minister Manfred Woerner has admitted in private that his French partner has put specific proposals to him. **It is possible to create dual key systems for both warheads and delivery vehicles.** (My emphasis—Yu.Zh.)

True, the LE POINT observer makes the reservation that "Francois Mitterrand did not take the same line as Giraud during his recent visit to the FRG," but the very fact of the far-reaching "recommendation" from Paris speaks for itself. This is where the "pre-strategic" missiles, which French Defense Minister Andre Giraud values so highly, would come in useful! This also explains the meaning of the secret agreements mentioned in the newspaper LE MONDE.

I wrote "would come in useful" rather than "come in useful" for the sole reason that the situation in Europe at the moment is not conducive to the conclusion of secret agreements which would provide for the transfer of French nuclear arms to FRG territory "in the event of a conflict." People are becoming more and more conscious of the fact that the best guarantee against conflicts is arms reduction rather than the intensification of the arms race.

It was no accident that the results of the meeting in Karlsruhe evoked a guarded reaction both in Bonn and Paris. The West German Social Democrats, in particular, subjected the results of this meeting to sharp criticism. Even the reaction in the ranks of the FRG's ruling

party to the plans of using French "pre-strategic" missiles as a "nuclear umbrella" for the "combined" formation was not unequivocal. And the government cannot ignore this. The newspaper KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER wrote: "The talks participants did their utmost to cover up existing differences of opinion, above all as regards questions of nuclear disarmament. The FRG Government has proposed more than once that after the conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on intermediate-range and operational-tactical missiles talks should be continued in particular on the question of the elimination of tactical nuclear missiles. In addition, according to press reports, Bonn allegedly intended to put forward the idea of convening a special conference with the participation of the USSR and the United States and also the European countries where nuclear weapons are sited to discuss the question of the elimination of missiles with a range of up to 500 km. This West German stance did not meet with the understanding of the French side, primarily for the reason that France possesses this kind of nuclear weapons."

Time will tell how events will develop further. But the noisy discussion which I have described in itself provides serious food for thought. It remains to be hoped that people in Paris will ultimately grasp that in our time security can and must be ensured by means of arms reductions and peaceful all-European cooperation rather than a buildup of nuclear arms and the drafting of far-reaching plans for their possible use.

In this context, I simply must recall the remarks made in the selfsame speech in Aachen by the French president, remarks which could be subscribed to by any reasonable person: "I want to say to you, the Germans, but especially to my French compatriots, and to all others—the United States and the Soviet Union: Let us stop forging plans for winning war and instead hasten and make plans on how to avert it. Once war has broken out it will not be possible to curb the damage and destruction; that must be done earlier.... Let us try not to win war but to prevent it."

Fine words! But they must be backed up with actions.

Latin America & Caribbean

Komplektov Meets Argentina's Alfonsin
LD222236 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Buenos Aires December 22 (TASS)—Today Argentine President Raul Alfonsin received Viktor Komplektov, USSR deputy foreign minister and special representative of the Soviet leadership. The president displayed great interest in the appraisals by the Soviet side of the results of the negotiations between Mikhail

Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He highly assessed the INF Treaty signed in Washington and expressed the hope that the progress reached in discussing the issues of radical reduction in strategic nuclear weapons would lead to practical moves on a drastic decrease in the nuclear threat and that a consistent advance towards nuclear disarmament, limitation of and reduction in other weapons would be achieved.

In this connection Raul Alfonsin pointed to the importance of multilateral efforts within the framework of the U.N., the Geneva disarmament conference, "the initiative of the six" and other fora. In his opinion, the results of the Soviet-American summit create favourable prerequisites for this.

The Soviet side confirmed full support for the above position and readiness to cooperate closely with all countries, including Argentina which pursues active and constructive foreign policy, in achieving a lasting peace, security for all states, a just political settlement of regional conflicts and the development of mutually advantageous international cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

Tinoco on Responsibility for Talks Breakdown
LD222222 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Havana December 22 TASS—The talks on ceasefire in Nicaragua, resumed with mediation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo in the capital of the Dominican Republic, have entered a blind-alley due to the contra rebels' refusal to meet international advisers invited by the Nicaraguan Government.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco, the head of the Nicaraguan delegation, told newsmen that all responsibility for the continued bloodshed rested with the United States.

The Reagan administration, he said, did not show signs of interest in a ceasefire, while pressing for new allocations from the American budget for the mercenaries.

The invigoration of terrorist activity by the contras showed that Washington did not display a sincere striving for peaceful settlement and banked on the escalation of the war.

This policy ran counter to the Guatemalan accords which provided for the cessation of all types of assistance to mercenary gangs, Tinoco said.

Political & Social

Gorbachev, Others Attend KGB Jubilee Meeting

PM221133 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87
Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Jubilee Marked"]

[Text] A ceremonial meeting marking the Soviet state security organs' 70th anniversary was held at the Central Club named for F.E. Dzerzhinskiy on 18 December.

The presidium comprised M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

The following spoke at the meeting: V.M. Chebrikov, chairman of the USSR KGB; N.P. Yemokhonov, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; Ye.P. Kopyev, lathe operator at the S. Ordzhonikidze Machine Tool Building Plant; Hero of the Soviet Union V.V. Karpov, first secretary of the USSR Union of Writers Board; I.G. Starinov, veteran of the state security organs and participant in the Civil War and Great Patriotic War; and Twice Hero of the Soviet Union G.V. Novozhilov, principal designer at the USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry.

State security organ staffers, Cheka veterans, leading scientists, figures from literature and art, and representatives of labor collectives in Moscow and its environs took part in the meeting.

PRAVDA Reports Ryzhkov Visit to Kazakhstan

PM221521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87
Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the general heading "Giving Dynamism, Initiative, and Responsibility to Restructuring"]

[Text] N.I. Ryzhkov toured Kazakhstan 14-18 December, visiting a number of industrial enterprises.

At an Alma-Ata cotton combine the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers was shown examples of new fabrics and new kinds of finishing. In conversation with combine workers the vital need for all-around improvements in the productivity and quality of labor was noted.

During a conversation with foundry workers in a shop at the lead and zinc combine in Ust-Kamenogorsk, N.I. Ryzhkov inquired about their conditions of work and daily life and their wages. It is almost 1 year since they switched to the new economic system there, but it transpires that the workers still have only a poor idea of what it actually amounts to and still do not feel themselves to be fully in charge of production.

This topic was also raised during a visit to a Karaganda metallurgical combine, where it was said that everyone—from chief specialist to ordinary worker—must improve their economic training.

N.I. Ryzhkov visited the Ekibastuz fuel and power complex and inspected the Ekibastus GRES-2 construction site and the "Vostochnyy" and "Bogatyr" open cut coal mines.

At the "Tselinogradselmash" Production Association the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers drew attention to the need to manufacture highly productive equipment that meets the demands of agricultural workers, inquired about how ready the collective is to work in conditions of complete economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing, and showed an interest in questions of enhancing product quality.

He visited the All-Union Grain Industry Scientific Research Institute near Tselinograd.

In Dzhezkagan N.I. Ryzhkov visited the No 65 Shaft of the "Dzhezkazgantsvetmet" Science-and-Production Association's Yuzhnaya Mine.

Great attention was paid during the tour of the republic and at the numerous meetings with working people to how social problems, particularly housing construction and food supplies for the population, are being resolved.

At the "Zarechnyy" Sovkhoz near Tselinograd the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers learned about its pacesetting experience of housing construction in the countryside.

A fine impression was made during a visit to a residential settlement of dwellings that workers at the lead and zinc combine in Ust-Kamenogorsk built for themselves.

During the tour conferences were held at the Karaganda, Tselinograd, and Dzhezkazgan Kazakh Communist Party Obkoms. They discussed key questions of the economic and social development of the regions and the republic as a whole.

Preparations for the switch to the new economic system on 1 January 1988 were the focus of attention. Serious concern was voiced at the fact that contractual relations between enterprises supplying goods and their consumers are developing intolerably slowly in Kazakhstan.

In Alma-Ata N.I. Ryzhkov laid flowers at the monument to V.I. Lenin.

He completed his tour at the "Medeo" mountain sports complex and visited the "Alma-Ata" Trade Center.

During his stay in the republic he was accompanied by G.V. Kolbin and N.A. Narzarbayev.

Addresses Alma-Ata Aktiv

PM221444 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87
Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Dynamism, Initiative, and Responsibility for the Restructuring"]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 18 Dec—A major discussion of how to achieve the utmost efficiency in resolving the urgent tasks of the restructuring took place today in the capital of Kazakhstan. A meeting took place here between N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the republic's party and economic aktiv. It was opened by N.A. Nazarbayev, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

G.V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, gave a report on the work of the republic party organization at the present stage of the restructuring and on the main tasks for the future.

The meeting was addressed by N.I. Ryzhkov.

The year 1987 will go down in Soviet people's memory as a year packed with major events and new processes, he said. The outstanding political event was the visit by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the United States. He strengthened our faith in the great force of reason and new thinking in politics. The visit itself, the documents signed during it, the large-scale new initiatives in the cause of disarmament—all this would have been inconceivable without the USSR's innovative ideas and approaches in foreign policy strategy, which have their origins in the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum.

The plenum was a historic turning point in all our policy—domestic and foreign, and gave a powerful boost to socialist renewal, to restructuring. This has become an organic part of all our life.

The speaker singled out certain points of principle which determine the essence of the current changes. There is, first and foremost, the weighty ideological and political contribution which the Communist Party has made to the theory and practice of socialist creation. There is the moral victory secured by the restructuring. There is glasnost in public affairs.

The democratization process covers the crucial sphere of society's existence—the economy, the speaker went on to note. I would like to stress that the documents of the January, June, and October 1987 Plenums of the Central Committee lay down the organizational and political prerequisites for resolving all these cardinal problems together.

The main difficulty in elaborating the radical economic reform was to avoid either substituting tactics for strategy or formulating strategic tasks in isolation from

reality. The package of fundamental documents for the radical restructuring of economic management adopted at the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the subsequent USSR Supreme Soviet session, and above all the USSR Law on the State Enterprise, indicates that we have managed to cope with difficulties of that nature.

The start of the practical implementation of economic reform marks the beginning of a new stage in the restructuring.

The peculiarity of the present time is that at the same time as implementing a radical economic reform we must without fail fulfill the targets of the 12th 5-Year Plan.

How is its fulfillment going? There have been changes for the better. It has been possible to stop the falling trend in growth rates which characterized the stagnation period. The fuel and energy and metallurgical complexes are working steadily. Marking time in agriculture has largely been overcome. It is of fundamental importance that there has been a perceptible turn toward more active implementation of social policy. But that should not lead to complacency: We are not meeting the 5-year plan targets in all indicators. The situation in capital construction remains strained. Special concern is caused by laggardness in the work of machine building—a sector of key significance in radical technical retooling.

However, for all that, it must be stressed once again that the growth of the USSR's national economy is proceeding dynamically, mainly in accordance with the 5-year plan targets. The task for 1988 is to consolidate and develop the positive trends in the economy.

The speaker described the course of preparations for the transition to new methods of economic management. This year preparations are proceeding in a more organized way, in greater depth, than a year ago, when the first five sectors of industry were preparing for this step. But a number of major shortcomings and retarding factors have also emerged, which were noted at the conference at the CPSU Central Committee in early December.

One of the main shortcomings is the incomplete work on concluding economic contracts for 1988. At the beginning of December the level was approximately 80%. Kazakhstan had one of the lowest levels in the country—below 70%.

We are focusing attention on this question, the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers noted, because it is a key question for work in the new conditions and is, unfortunately, undervalued by economic leaders.

Other shortcomings have also emerged. First, the unstable financial position of many enterprises. Second, the question of providing material and technical resources to

cover the funds earned by the enterprises has not yet been fully resolved. That is a serious danger. It could undermine the labor collectives' faith in the effectiveness of the new methods of economic management. There is a third aspect too. At many enterprises and associations the economic reform has only touched on the very top stratum of the management apparatus. The new economic methods have not become an integral part of the collectives' internal life. Economic accountability has not reached the shops, sectors, livestock units, and teams, has not reached every worker.

We must, comrades, know all these shortcomings. We must know them in order to concentrate our attention and efforts on them, while being fully aware of the political significance of the step that lies ahead.

The speaker dwelt in particular on the most important aim of the restructuring of the economic mechanism—the development of democracy in production, noting that the new economic mechanism objectively encourages the labor collectives to participate more actively in the management of production and the resolution of all questions of production and social life.

In the country today, he went on, on the basis of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum, a process of active improvement of the system of management of the national economy at all levels is under way. An important avenue, alongside the improvement of production and science-and-production associations, is the creation of a fundamentally new organizational form—the state production association. A state production association is an association on an economic basis of autonomous economic units for the purpose of jointly tackling tasks of production and social development. It is based on the principles of full economic accountability and self-financing and democratic forms of management. The introduction of the state production association makes it possible to go over everywhere to a two-tier management system, entirely abolish intermediate links, and fundamentally restructure the ministries' structure, and will drastically reduce the numerical strength of the management apparatus.

The main requirements for state production associations have already been defined. In some ministries and regions work to set them up is proceeding relatively actively. This work is beginning in Kazakhstan too.

At the same time not only successes, but also negative trends can already be perceived in this major and important matter. There is evidence of a desire in a number of cases to approach the formation of state production associations purely formally and basically to change the label on the old management components. There are cases where certain ministries, in particular the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, are setting up state production associations with an overblown management apparatus.

The inherently democratic nature of the new organizational form is clearly manifested not only in industry, but also in the agro-industrial complex. Similar structures have begun to be created here. A graphic example of this is the "Novomoskovskoye" agro-industrial association and the "Adazhi" agro-industrial firm. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Government have now drawn up proposals on the wide dissemination of this experience.

In 7 decades of Soviet power there have been truly revolutionary changes in Kazakhstan's economy, a republic where the main sector was nomadic livestock raising has become the flagship of the country's nonferrous metallurgy, a major center for ferrous metallurgy and the chemical industry and for fuel extraction and electricity generation, and one of our leading granaries. The state of the country's national economic organism depends to a large extent on how things are going in Kazakhstan's economy.

Yet deformation and stagnation phenomena in the republic became severe. Neither industry, nor the agro-industrial complex, nor capital construction coped with the 11th 5-Year Plan targets. The development of the social sphere showed chronic laggardness.

The state of affairs in the economy and other spheres is now being rectified. Judging by preliminary data, in the first 2 years of the 12th 5-Year Plan the republic will fulfill plan targets, and overfulfill them on a number of points. Great social significance is attached to the large-scale work which has been launched in the republic to resolve one of the most burning social questions—providing the working people with housing.

All these facts indicate that in Kazakhstan and in the republican party organization the tone is set by healthy forces, and that the multinational detachment of working people is distinguished by high political awareness and faith in the ideals of socialism.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government assess at their due worth the results achieved and your businesslike mood. But as Communists we have no right to fail to be aware of something else too. The changes for the better now achieved are largely the result of the utilization of the major reserves that existed. At the same time in the stagnation period many complex problems accumulated, holding back the growth of the republic's economy and its contribution to the common cause. And these problems must be discussed with party frankness and in a principled way.

Allow me to dwell on just a few of the most important questions of your work.

One is the chronic way in which the level of productivity of social labor lags behind the all-union average, a lag which in 1981-1987, so far from being reduced, actually increased.

The central avenue for increasing the productivity of social labor is to orient production toward leading technology and equipment. This conclusion would appear to be beyond doubt, but we are encountering very great difficulties in its implementation.

The practice of your work shows where these difficulties come from. According to the USSR State Committee for Statistics, in 1986 only 67% of the republic's industrial enterprises carried out scientific and technical measures, and even that level was achieved mainly thanks to two oblasts—Karaganda and Uralsk.

Technical policy in the sectors is implemented sluggishly and inconsistently. The technical standard of developments by the republic's scientific research, design, and technological organizations is low.

The new principles of economic management are designed for the production of modern output. Only then will the labor collectives be able to resolve their production and social tasks.

The speaker went on to dwell on quality, stressing that this key question in our economy remains acute for Kazakhstan. This applies to the output of many enterprises, including consumer goods.

Speaking of the need for resource-saving as the basic source of satisfaction of additional requirements for fuel and raw materials, he noted the initial successes in the work being done in the republic in that direction, but warned against complacency. The role of resource-saving must be stepped up sharply, bringing into play all the reserves, of which there are a great many in the republic. Among them the speaker named, in particular, the reduction of norms for the expenditure of rolled nonferrous metals, the development of waste-free technologies, and the comprehensive utilization of mineral raw materials.

Today's discussion is not intended to examine all aspects of economic work in Kazakhstan, N.I. Ryzhkov went on. But on the whole it is as yet poorly organized. We cannot ignore such an alarming fact as the deterioration in the situation over the fulfillment of commitments for deliveries of industrial output.

Every fifth enterprise in Kazakhstan fails to fulfill targets for the growth of labor productivity and the reduction of prime cost of output.

The speaker pointed out that in capital construction, of which there is a great volume in Kazakhstan, the chronic negative phenomena are still being overcome only slowly, in particular the lag in the commissioning of facilities in relation to the assimilation of capital investments. In most cases construction schedules are extremely prolonged.

Despite some progress, many shortcomings also remain in the construction of facilities in the sociocultural sphere.

We have already noted today the good work by Kazakhstan's construction workers in commissioning housing. We saw the results of this work for ourselves during the tour of the republic. The working people had good things to say about it. The impression is that both your party and economic organs and the labor collectives themselves have set about this task seriously. But in order to fulfill the task set by the 27th CPSU Congress—to provide every family with an individual apartment or house by the year 2000—it is necessary, as you realize, to redouble, to treble your efforts and make active and persistent use of every possible means of resolving this task.

One such means is the accelerated development of individual housing construction. In speaking of Kazakhstan it must be noted that the proportion here is considerably lower than in the country as a whole, lower than in all the union republics.

We feel that some progress is taking place in individual housing construction in the republic.

Examples have appeared of a committed attitude, of persistent, purposeful work to develop individual construction.

N.I. Ryzhkov stressed particularly that in order to successfully implement the housing construction program and accelerate its pace, it is necessary to persistently seek additional resources. Local leaders should think about their own material base and develop the production of construction materials locally, rather than waiting for them to come from elsewhere.

The speaker devoted great attention to one of the priority problems facing the country today, namely stable food supplies to the population. Recalling that the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum set a specific target—to achieve tangible positive results in this respect everywhere in the next 2-3 years—he dwelt on individual questions of the development of Kazakhstan's agro-industrial complex.

Some 11% of the production potential of the country's agro-industrial complex is concentrated here. The party Central Committee and the government view with full approval the measures being adopted by the Kazakh Communist Party to overcome laggardness in the development of the agrarian sector. The first positive results have taken shape. In some oblasts and rayons a marked improvement has taken place in food supplies to the population. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve major improvements in agriculture.

It was stressed that party and economic organs should adopt a new approach to evaluating the role of the republic's agro-industrial complex and view its development not only from the viewpoint of the satisfaction of local needs, but from the standpoint of the whole country. This applies above all to grain farming. An inclination to reduce grain deliveries to the all-union stocks on the pretext of strengthening the feed base is beginning to manifest itself. The Kazakhstan party organization should give a principled assessment of such inclinations and not allow parochial tendencies to develop. Kazakhstan is a unique agricultural region, the whole country created it. It is incumbent on the republic to fulfill its task within the integrated national economic complex.

The financial condition of a state, republic, or labor collective is a concentrated expression of the results of economic activity, a mirror of the economy. I wish to convey to you the serious concern felt by the party Central Committee and the government at the strain in this sphere, N.I. Ryzhkov went on to say.

As for Kazakhstan, the situation here is, to put it mildly, patently unfavorable. Suffice it to say that at present every fifth industrial enterprise and construction organization is failing to fulfill the profit plan. There is a particularly complex financial situation at enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex. These and other shortcomings in economic work force the republic to appeal to the union budget for help, which is, of course, easier than imposing order at home.

The CPSU Central Committee and government devote particular attention to the implementation of the 27th party congress instructions for a decisive turn by the planning and management organs and central and local economic organization in the direction of social requirements, N.I. Ryzhkov went on.

If we are to remain firmly grounded in the truth, it must be admitted that such a turn has yet to take place in the republic. Inertia in technocratic approaches to the social aspects of production is not being overcome persistently enough and there is an underestimation of the urgency of the problems that have arisen in health care and public education and in ensuring the conditions for a full life and meaningful leisure.

I wish to stress once again that unremitting concern for resolving questions of labor, life, and culture and satisfying people's interests and needs should be the law for all state and economic organs and public organizations and every leader.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers dwelt on the question of party, soviet, and economic cadres, stressing that the coming period will be the most serious test for them.

To the best of my knowledge, he said, in the course of the reports by elected organs to the republican party organization there is a self-critical analysis of experience in selecting, placing, and educating cadres, shortcomings are being uncovered, and the questions which have become urgent here are being resolved. And that is correct, because work with cadres must not be allowed to become a bottleneck in the restructuring.

A notable feature of 1988 is that we will reach an important political milestone—the 19th All-Union Party Conference. It is a matter of honor for working people in Kazakhstan, along with the entire country, to approach this great event with a sense of duty well done, with weighty labor successes.

Allow me to express confidence, N.I. Ryzhkov said in conclusion, that the Kazakhstan party organization—the leading vanguard of the republic's working people—will be able to resolve the tasks facing it in the historic time of restructuring.

Speaking at the conference, E.Kh. Gukasov, first deputy chairman of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic Gosagroprom; N.M. Makiyevskiy, Kazakh SSR minister of construction; N.D. Tantsyura, Kazakh SSR minister of trade; and U. Sarsenov, chairman of the Kazakh Potrebsoyuz, noted certain positive changes which have taken place in the republic's economic and sociopolitical life under the influence of the restructuring. At the same time it was stressed in the speeches that a major breakthrough is needed in dealing with urgent problems, as well as more persistent and consistent participation by party, soviet, and economic organs and all Communists in resolving them.

Zaykov Visits 'Temp' Association in Moscow
PM211021 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian
9 Dec 87 p 1

[MOSTASS report: "Priority to People's Needs"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Questions of accelerating restructuring at the "Temp" Production Association, preparing the collective to switch to full economic accountability and self-financing, introducing the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), sharply improving the quality and reliability of domestic television equipment, and improving the work of state acceptance were examined during a visit to the association 8 December by L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

During conversations in the shops and sections, workers and engineering and technical staff expressed their approval and support for the party's course of restructuring and stressed that at its new stage in conditions of the further deepening of democracy and the introduction of the new economic mechanism it is necessary to

strengthen organization and discipline and broaden the active participation of working people in resolving all their enterprise's production and social tasks. [passage omitted]

Taking part in the examination of those questions were Yu.D. Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, O.S. Belyakov, chief of a department of the CPSU Central Committee, Yu.G. Borisov, first secretary of the Moskvoretskiy party raykom, and N.Ya. Yakovlev, chairman of the rayispolkom.

L.N. Zaykov visited the "V.I. Lenin Funeral Train" pavilion and museum. He viewed the Paveletskiy station complex, which has recently been reopened after being fully modernized. [passage omitted]

New Town for Chernobyl Workers Planned
LD221411 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Kiev December 22 TASS—Workers of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will soon move to the first apartment houses of the town of Slavutich which is being built 150 km away from the capital of the Ukraine. A decision to build the new town was taken by the Soviet Government with a view to ensuring normal working and living conditions for workers of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, many of whom had lived in Prip'yat before last year's accident there. Slavutich is an old name of the Dnieper River. It will be inherited by the new town whose population will be 50,000.

Some 1,000 flats have been built already. By the end of this year 120,000 square metres of floorspace, a supermarket, a sports and recreation complex, a school, kindergartens and shops will be put into service. The town is being built at a remarkably high pace because over 20,000 people are to move there by next September. It is of special importance that they will live in conditions meeting not only present-day requirements, but also those of the future. It is not accidental that Slavutich is called a town of the 21st century. All the 9,000 builders who came there from various regions of the USSR are sparing no effort for making it this way.

Callousness to Dead Servicemen's Parents Scored
PM171131 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
10 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[Lieutenant Colonel A. Goncharov article: "Darkened Windows; Travel Assignment To Follow up a Disturbing Letter"; first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Excerpt] "There is nothing I can do to help myself. What happened to my son has robbed me of sleep and tranquillity and taken years off my life. I have grown old before my time, I don't live, merely exist, and I weep day and night from sorrow. I see nothing but the tragedy of my son, it gnaws at my heart, and burns into my brain.

This is the sacred anguish for the aggrieved memory of boys who died fulfilling their international duty in Afghanistan.... T. Gorelikova, Novokuybyshevsk."

He was her hope in life. He did exceptionally well at school and at the institute. She was proud of his future specialty—integrated robotics and cybernetics. A sportsman, an athlete nearly 2 meters tall, he was a kind person and a conscientious son. Tamara Aleksandrovna Gorelikova felt comfortable and at peace with her Sasha at her side.

He lived for 20 years, 2 months and 10 days. Now he is gone. Junior Sergeant Aleksandr Gorelikov died in Afghanistan fighting the dushmans.

At one time, Republican Spain had entered our country's fate in exactly the same way.... Like Spain, Afghanistan became our pride: We have never abandoned friends in trouble. It also became our sorrow: We are paying a very high price for our international duty—with the life of soldiers and officers. Mothers are left without their sons. How can we ease their pain and torment?

By all-union standards, Novokuybyshevsk is a small town. But there are several enterprises of the petrochemical and petroleum refining industry. Tamara Aleksandrovna Gorelikova works in one of them. A senior engineer and a Communist, she is already receiving her retirement pension but she cannot manage without work. When misfortune struck, her colleagues did not neglect her. The workers at the city military commissariat, the party gorkom, and the gorispolkom also involved themselves in the fate of the soldier's mother. They helped her to change her apartment. Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Chernyshov, Novokuybyshevsk City Military Commissar, was personally concerned with organizing the dead serviceman's funeral.

As a whole Novokuybyshevsk honors the memory of the internationalist servicemen, I was assured, and reserve servicemen who went through the difficult school of Afghanistan are also respected. There are displays to mark the memory of internationalist servicemen in vocational and technical schools and secondary schools. Students at the industrial-pedagogical technical college have decided to take under their patronage families who have lost sons who discharged their service duty to the end. On festive days and during sendoffs for new draftees words of appreciation for those who worthily bore and bear the title of internationalist serviceman can be heard from the platform. Words of gratitude are expressed to the parents who raised hero sons.

But if that is the whole truth, then why this outburst in Gorelikova's letter: "How are we mothers, driven mad by grief, to fare? Who is going to look after us?..."

I thought about this question when I visited city establishments and talked with students at the industrial pedagogical technical college. At the military commissariat, at party and komsomol gorkoms and in pedagogical technical colleges, I met with people who were apparently energetic and not indifferent, and yet... There was one more characteristic uniting them: Regardless of their age or the position they held, they assessed their work according to the volume and subject matter of the measures undertaken. "Ah, so you weren't at the meeting of soldiers' mothers!" "You should come and see us at the conscript sendoff ceremony; then you will have something to look at...." "What a wonderful meeting we had at the city cemetery at the graves of the servicemen who died while fulfilling their service duty!" And how surprised they were at the Komsomol gorkom when they found out that it was precisely this meeting—conducted in a clumsy fashion—which became the occasion for writing a letter to the editorial office saying that it brought fresh pain and not calm to the mother's heart. And not just one such heart, as I later realized...

As far as those same Komsomol workers are concerned the internationalist servicemen who served in the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan are all much of a muchness. O. Volkov, second secretary of the Komsomol Novokuybyshevsk Gorkom, complained that they were unable to set up a soviet of internationalist servicemen although they were assembled three times. (All the same, such a soviet has been set up recently.)

It would seem that the mothers of the fallen soldiers are also considered by the majority of officials as being much of a muchness too. There are not many in Novokuybyshevsk, just a handful. They are united in their grief. But they all have different destinies and every mother experiences pain in her own distinct way, and the conditions in which they find themselves differ.

Gorelikova's health now could not be worse. She has had two heart attacks. Tamara Aleksandrovna needs medicine which has to be "happened upon" at pharmacies. And the situation regarding provisions is still difficult in Novokuybyshevsk.

What is she doing, standing in lines after heart attacks? I asked officials whom it concerned whether they could register such people as Gorelikova with a shop which caters to war invalids, personal pensioners, and women veterans of the front line residing in the city? The answer was: "Of course we can."

True, one comrade from the gorkom mentioned that it would be good to have directive documents, even if only on an oblast scale, in which provision could be made concerning additional privileges for parents whose sons died while carrying out their service duty. "Then it will be easier to resolve issues."

Probably, thought should indeed be given to extending state aid to such people. But should they have to wait? Why can't they resolve the issue today in the spirit of restructuring and an active social policy?

One more thing. However significant the material support is in all its manifestations, mothers' spiritual needs should not be forgotten. Why not assemble them at the same party gorkom and thank them for raising their patriotic sons? A women's council has recently been set up in Novokuybyshevsk. Why can't it take under its wing mothers who have lost what is most precious to them? They have a very great need of kind words and tactful advice. It is they, in the final analysis, who need to express everything that lies heavily on their hearts. Who better to help them than women made wise by life's experience?

L. Komliva, chief of the CPSU Novokuybyshevsk Gorkom Propaganda and Agitation Department, said with a sigh that obviously they need to work more with such people as Gorelikova individually. She assured me: We shall rectify this issue. We shall begin by inviting them to the party gorkom. We will have a good heart-to-heart talk.

I think that such an arrangement can only be welcomed. And much that Lina Semenovna and I talked about has already been done. But how much time has passed? Aleksandr Gorelikov died more than 2 years ago.

One more thing. It is not easy to write about this but I must. About tact and human sensitivity toward the mothers of the dead. Or rather of its absence among certain officials, even officers. When Private Vyacheslav Kirsanov was being buried, one of the representatives of the city military commissariat walked among the graves and commented as he walked: "This one died of such and such, and that one had himself to blame—he went where he should not have." This in front of the soldier's parents!

The mother of Pvt Kirsanov, Nina Semenovna, still remembers with bitterness the captain who knew her son, served in the same unit but did not find time to stop by to tell the Kirsanovs about their son and his service in Afghanistan. How many more documents and directives do we need to become more humane, and to respond to someone's else's pain as if it were our own? [passage omitted]

Shatrov's 'Brest Peace' Play 'Inspires Hope'
PM141510 Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 Dec 87 p 4

[M. Shvydkoy review under the rubric "Theater": "'I Want You To Understand Me....' M. Shatrov's 'The Brest Peace' at the Vakhtangov Theater"]

[Text] In the corner of the stage to the far right of the audience, a tin-plated door opens and a familiar stocky figure appears in the opening. Mikhail Ulyanov, in a

black three-piece suit with a tie that is familiar from numerous photographs, walks past the covered rows of seats representing on stage the spaces of the Smolny, where the figures of actors are frozen with tension; he stops in the right-hand corner, by a chair where his overcoat and cap lie. He stands in thought, as if sinking into a long forgotten story, and, enunciating his words slowly, declares: "Lenin was never so great as in moments of danger...." The play, produced by Robert Sturua, takes on an energetic tempo in the eager chords of Giya Kancheli's music. The artists of the Vakhtangov Theater are performing Mikhail Shatrov's play "The Brest Peace," making no secret of their belonging to the present day and trying to study the lessons of history together with us.

It is important for us to understand today why Shatrov and Sturua, Ulyanov and his comrades at the Vakhtangov Theater, the composer Kancheli, and the artist Aleksii Meskhishvili have decided to "resurrect" one of the most dramatic moments of the great revolution—the struggle of V.I. Lenin and those who agreed with him for the signing of the Brest peace.

Dzerzhinskiy, Bukharin, and their supporters (and in the Central Committee the majority is behind them) demand the commencement of revolutionary war with Germany, because otherwise imperialism will drown in blood the people's uprisings in Poland, the Baltic, the Ukraine, and Belorussia. Trotsky insists on the formula "neither peace nor war," trying to look like a peacemaker and ultrarevolutionary fighter. Lenin, finding himself in a minority, insists on peace, because the Russian peasant and worker, worn out by war, are not capable of fighting and need a peaceful breathing-space which could determine the future of the revolution....

This distribution of political forces is familiar to us from our schooldays. So why do we watch the events on stage with such keen attention, as if our own fate was being decided there?

Of course, it is not only because for the first time in the history of our theater the figures surrounding V.I. Lenin on stage are not the anonymous figures usually described in the list of dramatis personae as the First People's Commissar, Second People's Commissar, and so forth, but historical individuals who, in all their contradictoriness, played an important role in the revolution—Lenin's closest associates. The main lesson of this play is that it regards sociopolitical activity as creative work where there are no set formulas or well-trodden paths.

The show upholds the true meaning of the party's political creativity. Not the people for the party, but the party for the people—that is the thrust of Lenin's arguments. The show upholds the sober dialectics of knowledge against the ecstasy of blind faith. "We trust you, Vladimir Ilich," Stalin will say at the end. "I want you to understand me...." Lenin will reply.

Complaints about the show could also be heard: "How can these be members of the government? They weep, abuse each other, all but throw chairs at each other."

The theater was not trying in the least to belittle the great figures of the great revolution. It was trying to treat them like real people, party comrades, intellectuals of the first water, people who suffered, loved, and made mistakes too. The director did not create a vivid theatrical image for every one of them, as he did for Trotsky (V. Lanovoy), Bukharin (A. Filipenko), or Stalin (V. Koval). But even I. Kupchenko (Armand), A. Parfanyak (Krupskaya), A. Pavlov (Lomov), V. Ivanov (Sverdlov), and others tried as best they could to make use of the modest literary material.

Not everything in this show is striking in its novelty. R. Sturua sometimes uses commonplace production devices, while it is not easy for the actors to shake off the accustomed clichés. But this work draws special intensity from the zeal for overcoming oneself, the need to renew one's own artistic arsenal. Perhaps that is why "The Brest Peace" at the Vakhtangov Theater is a living, passionate show inspired by the will of M. Shatrov, R. Sturua, and M. Ulyanov. A show which restores dignity to the Vakhtangov stage, and inspires hope.

New Magazine Ready for Publication

LD162248 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT
16 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 16 TASS—The first issue of the weekly "EKHO PLANETY" ("ECHOS OF THE WORLD"), the joint publication of the news agency of the Soviet Union TASS and the USSR Union of Journalists will be brought out late in March next year. The weekly will cover topical problems of international life.

TASS, which is among the five biggest world news agencies, processes a huge stream of news. But so far the news agency could reach the readership only through "mediators"—newspapers, television, radio. Due to the new magazine, it receives for the first time an opportunity to address readers directly.

This will be the first magazine in the USSR to be brought out wholly by electronic means. Information for the weekly comes from TASS correspondents abroad on displays' screens, is edited and then referred to the computerized photoset system. The pilot issue has already been brought out.

Alongside political problems, news of social and cultural life abroad, achievements of world science and sports events will be widely covered on the pages of the new publication.

Together with the entire Soviet press, the new magazine will be participating in establishing new political thinking in international relations.

Agricultural

Early December Weather, Crop Status Reviewed

PM231101 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
17 Dec 87 p 1

["Weather and Crops" by Agrometeorologist T. Ivan-sheva]

[Text] In the last 10-day period, primarily warm weather persisted in Belorussia, the Baltic republics, and the central, northwest, north, Volga-Vyatka, and Ural regions. Now it has turned appreciably colder. Winter grains and perennial grasses are overwintering successfully. To the northeast of a line joining Brest, Chernigov, Orel, Voronezh, and Volgograd they were in a state of winter dormancy under a cover of snow ranging in depth from 5-10cm in the south of this territory to 25-30cm in the north. It reliably protected the plants from frosts and therefore the minimum temperature at winter grain tillering node and grass root neck depth ranged from minus 2 to minus 8°. In Moldavia, most of the Ukraine, and the North Caucasus winter crops ceased making growth at the end of the first 10-day period.

The first half of the second 10-day period in December was characterized by changeable weather with sharp fluctuations in temperature and pressure. A storm was recorded in Moscow 14 December, which is unusual for this time of year.

The weather in the Transcaucasian republics was changeable. The average air temperature for the 10-day period was close to normal. During daylight hours the air heated up to 8-14° but during the first few days in the 10-day period the maximum air temperature in the west of Georgia rose to 18-23°. The rainiest weather was observed in the west of Georgia: Rain fell for 6-7 days and total precipitation amounted to 60-145mm. Winter grain crops in the Transcaucasus made growth for most of the 10-day period with a good supply of moisture.

The weather has grown warmer in the crop farming regions of Siberia and the north of Kazakhstan. The average air temperature was 2-5° higher than normal. Winter grain crops and perennial grasses are in a state of dormancy under a deep (15-35cm) cover of snow. Therefore, the frosts (20-35°) recorded at the beginning of the 10-day period did not present a danger for them. The minimum soil temperature at winter grain tillering node and grass root neck depth ranged from minus 2 to minus 6°.

The weather has grown warmer in Central Asia. During daylight hours the air warmed up to 10-15°—16-23° above zero in the south of the territory. The maximum air temperature ranged from plus 5 to minus 6° in mountain areas of Kirghizia and Tajikistan. Winter grain crops and grasses were in a state of winter dormancy under a shallow (2-5cm) cover of snow in the

south of Kazakhstan and in Kirghizia. Plants were in a state of growth in the other Central Asian republics for the majority of the 10-day period.

At the beginning of the second 10-day period the weather in Siberia, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia was warmer than usual. During this period the average daily air temperature was 8-15° higher than normal.

Uzbek Party Plenum Examines Cotton Growing

LD181055 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] [News Presenter Viktor Levin] A plenum of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee took place today. It was convened in connection with the critical situation in cotton growing in the republic. As you can appreciate, this is an expression that makes one listen. But before we switch over to Tashkent, we asked our correspondent to come into the studio and we will present several figures and facts. Around R28 billion have been invested in the agro-industrial complex of Uzbekistan over the last 10 years. But regarding the quantity of cotton, the republic has remained at the mid-seventies' level. So, as you can see, the present-day standard of cotton growing corresponds neither to the realistic possibilities of the republic, nor to the huge funds which the state invests in its development.

The question of how to extricate the most important agricultural branch from this problem and the kind of tasks at issue were discussed at the plenum of the republican Communist Party Central Committee. I will ask (Erkin Rakhimov), our correspondent in Uzbekistan, to speak about this in greater detail.

[(Rakhimov)] The plenum has quite correctly examined very important and perhaps the most painful issue in our region about the development of cotton growing. What is there to hide? I would say that an obvious recession could be observed in this sphere of agriculture over recent years. The blame for this is placed to the greatest extent on Uzbekistan, whose share of the all-union production of cotton constitutes more than 60%. On this issue the discussion at the plenum was frank and principled in a party manner.

The keynote speaker, Comrade Usmanhodzhayev, first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee, set the tone of critical analysis of the state of the affairs in the republic. He recalled that the negative occurrences which took place in the late seventies and early eighties inflicted irreparable damage to the national economy of the republic, both materially and morally. Over this time, the volume of over-reporting cotton constituted in all 4.5 million tonnes. This is almost a whole year's harvest! In pursuing the notorious gross output and in the desire to report the fulfillment of the plan at any cost, the leaders of many farms ceased caring about the mastering of crop rotation systems.

Grave violations were committed in the course of developing the virgin lands. Elementary requirements of farming practices were not observed, and this led to sharp worsening of the ameliorative condition of cotton plantations in the virgin lands.

Perhaps you will be interested in the measures which are being undertaken. I will tell you now. The losses of the past years are rather high to be able to say that everything will be put right at once. An enormous amount of work lies ahead. The union government met half way the requests of the republican leaders and reduced the plan on cotton procurement which was in existence earlier. It was, of course, unrealistic and far-fetched, so that from the next year, the new plan for the sale of cotton in Uzbekistan will be reduced by 500,000 tonnes. That is the first point. Secondly, a wide program for increasing soil fertility has been outlined, and not by using extensive measures, as before, but first and foremost by introducing new and progressive technologies.

Regarding this issue, it has been decided to focus special attention on the reintroduction of crop-rotation fields. The practice of front-ranking rayons, say of the Chinaz Rayon, showed that by observing the necessary requirement for cotton and alfalfa crop rotation it is possible to increase not just the yield of a cotton field, but also the output of a livestock farm. The experience of the farmers from the Khanka Rayon, Khorezm Oblast, deserves attention. There they introduced in an economic and sensible way progressive forms of organization of labor—the team and family contracting. As a result, even in the conditions of this year's unfavorable season, many kolkhozes obtained 35 and more quintals of cotton per hectare.

One has to talk in particular about the introduction of comprehensive mechanization in cotton growing. This concerns the development of highly productive machinery for harvesting the crop. The machinery which is currently available is causing a lot of complaints from farmers. But one has to be direct in saying that this is often a consequence of the fact that the farms are not preparing as they ought to for harvesting cotton with the help of machinery.

Lastly, here is the main point. The country needs the kind of cotton, which would in the fullest possible way correspond to the interests of textile industry workers. Unfortunately, an incomprehensible gap between farmers and textile workers has developed on this issue over recent years. Our cotton growers practically do not know for whom they grow the cotton, and what varieties of cotton are needed by this or that enterprise. The first attempts to establish such contacts have already been made. The representatives of involved parties met at a special auction which took place in Tashkent recently, and it seems that the ice was broken. This is a very important question, because a lot of fiber from last year's crop worth tens of millions of rubles has accumulated here in Uzbekistan and in neighboring republics, in

particular in Tajikistan. The textile industry workers are refusing to accept it. So in order not to repeat this situation it is time to truly consolidate the businesslike contacts among partners.

Media Report 12-18 December Developments

LD200606 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 12-18 December. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

12 December

Kirovskiy Rayon, Fergana Oblast, today reported the fulfillment of the state plan for cotton procurement. More than 63,000 tonnes of raw cotton have been delivered to reception points. (0500)

Bashkiriya's sugar beet growers overfulfilled the plan, procuring 1,418,000 tonnes of sugar beets. Half of this has already been processed. To date 80,000 tonnes of sugar have been obtained since the start of the season. (0700)

17 December

So far over 161,000 hectares have been plowed in Tajikistan. This is over half of the acreage set aside for cotton in the republic. (0304)

18 December

Not in all rayons in Tajikistan is autumn plowing up to the mark. The present plowing pace is lower than last year's. So far slightly over 60% of areas set aside for cotton has been plowed in the republic. (0304)

Scientific

'Cosmos-1903' Satellite Launched 22 Dec
LD221426 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1355 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 22 Dec (TASS)—Another artificial earth satellite, "Cosmos-1903," was launched in the Soviet Union today.

The satellite carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution: 11 hours and 49 minutes;

Maximum distance from the earth's surface (apogee): 39,342 km;

Minimum distance from the earth's surface (perigee): 614 km;

Inclination of orbit: 62.8 degrees.

The satellite also carries the following scientific apparatus:

A radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements, and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting data to earth about the work of instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus on board the satellite is working normally. The coordinating and computing center is processing incoming information.

Planned Mission to Phobos Described

*LD202356 Moscow World Service in English
1031 GMT 4 Dec 87*

[Interview with Boris Belitskiy by unidentified announcer; from the "Science and Engineering" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Belitskiy] Soviet space scientists believe that a manned mission to Mars can be undertaken only after a series of unmanned missions. One such mission is to be launched next year.

[Announcer] This is, in fact, the subject of listener Karinagarco's question.

[Belitskiy] In 7 months, the Soviet Unions plans to launch two spacecraft in the direction of Mars, a project involving even more sophisticated experiments than those carried out during last year's highly successful mission to Halley's Comet.

[Announcer] That project, by the way, has been praised in a letter from Morris Kurier in Regensburg, West Germany, and he too is interested in the upcoming mission.

[Belitskiy] Preparations for that mission are now in the final stage. Models of the spacecrafts and their systems are being tested in conditions simulating those the spacecraft are expected to encounter. As of today, the countdown for the mission is exactly on schedule. After a flight of 200 days, the probes, launched from the Baykonur cosmodrome, are to go into orbit around Mars. This orbit is then by two consecutive maneuvers to be changed so that it practically coincides with that of the planets' natural satellite, Phobos. Phobos is the main objective of the mission which, however, has several other objectives as well. The whole mission has been named Phobos.

[Announcer] How is the study of Phobos to be conducted?

[Belitskiy] By using their low-thrust engines, the spacecraft will practically hover right over the surface of Phobos, and the techniques of remote sensing by laser beams and ion fluxes should make it possible to analyse the mass and isotope composition of the Martian soil. These experiments, called "Lima" and "Deon," have no precedents in space research. Besides this, there are to be many new conventional planetological experiments, including the taking of close-up television pictures and direct soil investigations by landers.

[Announcer] I believe considerable international cooperation is planned in this project.

[Belitskiy] Yes, the program of the mission includes contributions in both ideas and hardware from scientists in 12 countries and the European Space Agency.